

Governors' Annual Statement to Parents

Foreword

Larkswood Primary Academy is part of the Lime Trust Multi-Academy Trust, a not for profit organisation, and has its own Local Governing Body. The Local Governing Body [LGB] of Larkswood Primary Academy has worked strategically to make sure that every child gets the best possible education. The LGB meet every month to discuss, support and challenge the work of the school. There are no separate committees; all Governors have responsibility and are accountable for the core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Eve Stanway
Chair of Governors

Governance Arrangements

The Local Governing Body is made up of nine positions as follows:

2 Parent Governors appointed by a ballot of parents

- **Eve Stanway**
- 1 vacancy currently being advertised

1 Staff Governor appointed by a ballot of staff

- **Victoria Bruce**

The Head Teacher

- **Lynne Harrowell**

5 Governors appointed by the Trust Board, having regard to any advice or nominations put forward by the Chief Executive Officer and the Local Governing Body

- **Gary Pocock**
- **Lisa Collison**
- **Natasha Graham**
- 2 vacancies

Our annual decision planner helps us to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year are covered. As part of the Lime Trust, there is a detailed Scheme of Delegation governing our work.

[Link to Scheme of Delegation](#)



Larkswood

Primary Academy *Putting Children First*

Attendance Record and Skills Analysis

The governing body's annual attendance record can be viewed on our website (link to document); this details who attended each type of meeting. In the autumn term of each academic year the Governing Body also completes an annual skills analysis; we use this to inform us of our training and development needs and to help to identify gaps that we can fill when recruiting to our vacancies.

Effectiveness and Impact of the Governing Body

The most important development over the last year was Larkswood securing an Academy order and going on to receive Sponsor status so that we can share our expertise with schools in difficulty. We were heavily involved in these steps and we are delighted with the outcome. As a result of the Academy order and the establishment of The Lime Trust as a Multi-Academy Trust, there is now a Trust Board and a Larkswood Local Governing Body. Larkswood has maximum 'delegation' which means we have full control of and responsibility for important aspects of the school – admissions, curriculum, staffing, budget and standards. Larkswood is also strongly represented on the Trust Board. All governors have been fully involved in these developments and continue to be so.

The LGB approved challenging targets for achievement and we were delighted that last summer the school gained the best results in the school's history at all levels: Early Years, Year 1 Phonics Screening, KS1 and KS2 SATs.

We continue to monitor the quality of teaching in the school: in July 2015 97% of teaching was rated as Good or better and the great majority as Outstanding. We have also reviewed the school leadership structure in the light of the arrival of the Lime Trust, with Lynne Harrowell as Executive Headteacher leading a very strong team.

The LGB has discussed and adopted new and updated policies to take the school forward and agreed and overseen the arrangements for performance management. We scrutinise the school's finances to ensure that all our resources including Pupil Premium and Sports Premium are used effectively.

Conclusion

Larkswood continues to make further good progress and to provide an excellent education for its pupils. As part of that your governors are determined to fulfil their strategic role of support and challenge conscientiously.

[Link to ofsted report](#)

[Link to DfE Performance Tables](#)

Eve Stanway
Chair of Governors

Gary Pocock
Vice-Chair of Governors