

## **Governing Body – Impact Statement**

### **What have we been up to this year 2023-4?**

The Governing Body is an important part of Priestley Smith School, although our work is often unseen by parents! We work hard in the background to make sure that Priestley Smith is the best it can be, for the children, the staff and our families.

It is our role to both support and challenge the school. One of our main functions is to hold the school to account, making sure for example, that the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are spending the budget fairly and wisely. Governors are aware of how tightly focussed the budget has to be, and through our Finance Committee, have worked with the SLT to ensure high standards are maintained in a climate of reducing budgets.

This last academic year we have carried out a range of Governor visits to meet with both staff and children and to observe life in school, first hand.

The visits included:

- Safeguarding meetings with the Lead teacher & safeguarding checks
- Observing Primary Phonics
- Observing a Music lesson
- Meeting with the IT teacher & chatting to pupils about how they use IT to access the curriculum
- Meeting with the staff well-being team
- Observation of the new Thematic Curriculum in Primary
- Observing the newly created Nurture Group in Primary
- Attending the Parent Coffee Afternoons
- Meeting with the Careers Lead
- Meeting with the Junior Leadership Team

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To help us in our role we attend a variety of training courses, mostly online in the evening. It is important that the Governing Body keeps up to date with current legislation for schools and all regional & national developments, particularly in Special Educational needs. Our training programme has covered:

- School Finances & managing budgets
- Safe Recruitment
- Safeguarding (an annual requirement)
- Head Teacher Appraisal
- Data Protection in schools
- PE Grant from central Government

Another area that Governors are involved in is staffing & recruitment. We approve any proposed staff changes, such as the recent restructuring of responsibilities in the Secondary department, which led to the creation of a new Middle Management Team. Three Governors were involved in the appointment of Liz Clabon, the Deputy Head in Secondary & Richard Foorde, the Assistant Head in Primary. They have been well received by staff and pupils alike and are spearheading developments across the school.

Pupil behaviour and all aspects of safeguarding have been closely monitored by Governors, with the Safeguarding Governor being involved in learning walks, playground observations and the scrutiny of all the staff records of employment.

In 2024/25, we are hoping that the Governing Body will go from strength to strength. We have recently welcomed several new Governors to the Board, bringing new life and energy!