

Governors' Annual Report & Impact Statement Jun 2025

We are immensely proud of the dedication and hard work that Mr Foster and all his staff have brought to our school in the last year. At time of writing we have not had our Ofsted re-inspection but we are confident that many improvements, found necessary in October 2023, have been implemented. It has been a long road and no improvement scheme is ever truly completed because there is always, to use a teaching and learning expression, an "Even Better If".

Our standards committee have found evidence of excellent learning throughout the school from early years and phonics in our youngest children, up to those in Year 6 about to move on to High School. We congratulate our Year 6 children on their calm and dedicated approach to their SATs. We don't yet know the results, but we do know that they applied themselves and performed to their very best – which is all we ask of them. We monitored the procedures applied for the SATs and found them to be correct. Thank you to the teachers and TAs who ensured the children were prepared both academically and emotionally.

We continue to look at longer term strategic options for the future of our little school. It is increasingly difficult for small schools to survive. Finances are always stretched and the workload on headteacher, teachers and TAs is enormous. MATs have the advantages of a collaborative and supportive environment, but it is essential to ensure any MAT we join fits with our vision, values and ethos. So we continue to assess options carefully.

We are building relationships with Longtown and some other local schools, at both governor and staff level, for the benefit of our staff and pupils. We hope to expand on this where it is practical.

We are also looking at ways to further integrate the on-site pre-school to enhance the seamless education of our little ones. This also needs careful planning and consideration.

Unfortunately our whole school training on becoming a Values based School had to be postponed due to bad weather, but we look forward to doing this at the start of September

We were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Jane Jones at Easter and we wish her well. She had been a fantastic asset to our school over many years and we know staff are missing her wisdom and experience.

We have kept our staffing levels as high as we possibly can because high quality teachers and TAs are the means to a rich, varied, exciting and excellent learning process for all our children; the most able (be that in learning, in sport, in drama etc), those "in the middle" and those for whom school is a struggle. We pride ourselves on being a truly inclusive school where everyone is known, understood, and cared about. We instil and celebrate values of kindness, resilience and respect.

Finances are tight and governors look to raise income and save expenditure wherever we can. PTFA raise valuable funds to help the school provide a rich and varied learning experience and we thank the committee and supporters for their hard work and dedication.

We are always mindful of staff workload and stress; we monitor it regularly. Teaching is a tough job and we strive to ensure a healthy work life balance for all. It is part of our ethos that staff as well as children should be "Happy and Hardworking, Healthy Head and Heart".

Our monitoring schedule checks progress by measuring the impact of our strategic plans and the Head teacher's operational implementation of those plans. This is a circular process involving close collaboration between governors and the school leaders. This year we have continued to monitor how staff are developing their subject leadership skills. We are delighted that our pupils have had so many enrichment opportunities; afterschool clubs, lunchtime activities, inter-school sporting matches, visitors and trips for all. We also carry out regular Health & Safety checks, Safeguarding compliance (including cyber security), learning data oversight, scrutiny of policy updates and financial monitoring.

We continue to monitor pupil attendance and we are happy to see recent improvement. We know that regular attendance is closely linked with good educational outcomes and we are working closely with leadership to develop effective strategies to minimise unauthorised absence.

Our governing board is strong with a good mix of skills. We are always looking to improve our skill set using various training opportunities available to us. We have just appointed a new parent governor so welcome to Keri Pearson who joins Lauri Lloyd and Rachel Dyson as parent representatives. We also have a recently appointed co-opted governor, Nikki Honeyman, who has professional experience in Special Educational Needs, and an associate member, Eve Jones, with teaching experience who also improves our demographic mix.