**Annual Governance Statement – 2023-24**

Welcome to this annual report from the governors of Mobberley C of E Primary School. This report is designed to provide an overview of our school, who we are and what we do and are planning to do. More detailed information about our school can be found on our website – [www.mobberley.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.mobberley.cheshire.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Damien Stenson

Chair of Governors: Helen Mountney

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## What is a governing board?

The governing board exists to make sure that the school runs effectively. It is a strategic role and the governing board performance manages the headteacher who runs the school on a day-to-day basis. The core functions of the governing board are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

Membership of the governing board:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type of governor/ trustee/ academy committee member: | Name | Office ends | Committees/additional responsibilities |
| Parent & staff  | Clint Morris | 14/11/2023 | Curriculum |
| Paul Tarne | 28/3/2026 | Finance/PE Curriculum Link |
| Karen Whalley | 31/8/2026 | Curriculum |
| LA/foundation | Charlotte Leach | 29/3/2026 | Buildings |
| Dr Val Baker | 25/5/2026 | Curriculum/Music & Science Link |
| Canon Ian Blay | Ex-Officio | Buildings/Safeguarding/RE link |
| Co-opted  | Helen Mountney | 31/3/2023 | Chair/EYFS Link/Personnel/Finance |
| Nicola Whiteley | 31/3/2023 | Vice-Chair/Personnel/Finance/Pupil Premium and SEN |
| Alistair MacLeod | 31/3/2023 | Buildings/Personnel/Humanities & Maths link |
| Headteacher | Damien Stenson | ongoing |  |

The governing board meet at least twice each term to discuss general issues of importance. Subcommittees focusing on specific areas such as the curriculum, the buildings and infrastructure, the financial position and school personnel meet each term or more frequently if required. Governors then take responsibility for understanding and reporting back on an area of the curriculum where they link with the relevant member of staff.

# Our vision for the school

The governing board is responsible for setting the school’s vision and strategy (what it will do to get to that point). Our vision was formed through conversations with pupils, parents, and staff.

Our vision is to provide all of our children with a rounded education based on the foundation of six core Christian values:

* Respect – treating everyone in our school with kindness and politeness
* Perseverance – keeping going when things get hard
* Compassion – being able to relate to and understand others in need
* Friendship – enjoying the company of others and being there for them
* Courage – taking brave steps forward
* Honesty – always telling the truth

As we write this report, Covid is far from beaten but the year did at least start in an atmosphere of calm and without the restrictions and mitigations that had become routine. Along with winter bugs it continues to influence attendance posing many staffing challenges. Pupil attendance of 95% at the beginning of the year was the lowest level reached in recent years. Thankfully as the year progressed it returned to pre-Covid levels of 96% to 97%. The importance of good ventilation aided by air purifiers is clear. School numbers hovered between 197 and 199 but are at 193 as we enter the new academic year. It is clear that a fall in the birth rate has impacted all local schools and the new Reception class starts with only 23 pupils.

The Department for Education carried out one of its routine school building surveys and unsurprisingly highlighted the need for major investment in the older infrastructure of our main building and the hall. We have had extended discussions with Cheshire East about the insufficient size of our Hall and how we can fit a replacement for the current year 5 classroom into our already constrained estate. More immediately, the oil-fired boiler needs replacing. It is not deemed cost effective to repair/replace the failed timing system so the system is having to be switched on and off manually which is both time consuming and inefficient. Cheshire East are determined to move to an air-source heat pump solution which would require a new power supply and involve some major work replacing old cast iron radiators and pipework. It is assumed this would need to be scheduled for the summer holidays as another window has passed.

From an academic perspective the school performs highly, and has done over a period of time. Cohorts enter the school at broadly the national average in Reception but by Y2, they typically attain above National averages. The Y1 phonics test stands at 93% currently (14% above national) and Y4 Times table test at 46% attaining full marks (14% above national.) By Y6 our children typically achieve above National scores. Our Reading scores are a particular strength with 79% achieving expected, 50% at GD, which puts us in the top 20% in the country. Y6 Maths at the expected level currently stands at 86%, 13% above national. Typically, we are one of the highest performing schools in the local area.

Our plans for the next year:

We will continue to press Cheshire East on plans to resolve the Hall capacity and must get a resolution to the current heating issue.

# The best education for all pupils

The governing board is responsible for holding the headteacher to account for the education of pupils and the management of staff.

## Curriculum

A number of published curriculum schemes are used as a basis for planned activities. Each scheme has been carefully selected as being appropriate for our overall curriculum intent.  The following schemes are used:

Mathematics – White Rose Maths, Active Maths, Times-Table Rock Stars, Numbots and MyMaths

English – Wandle (Phonics) Oxford Reading Tree (Guided reading Y1+2) Bug Club (Y3,4,5,6)

RE – Fruits and Shoots (Collective Worship) Chester Diocese Planned Scheme, Cheshire East Locally Agreed Syllabus

Music – Sing Up, Love Music Trust

PE/Games – Active PE

Art – Kapow Primary

History and Geography – Cornerstones

ICT – Switched-On Computing, Kapow Primary

Languages – National Primary Language Network Scheme Of Work

## Outcomes

Carefully selected targets are chosen for the Headteacher, SLT and Teaching Staff to ensure all children are given the best chance to achieve their potential. We aim to be above national scores each year by Y2 and by Y6, adding value each year to consolidate understanding.

## SEND

Mrs Bentzien is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator but school staff receive regular in house or specialist training to help them in identifying any child with SEND. Any pupil may have special educational needs at some point during their time at school. We do recognise that for some parents this can sometimes be difficult to accept.

## Behaviour

Pupil behaviour in classrooms and around the school is exemplary. The Values in Practice system promotes and celebrates the influence of Christian Values and Pupil Voice confirms that instances of poor behaviour or bullying are very rare and are dealt with effectively.

## Absence and attendance

We ask parents and carers not to take children on holiday during term time. There is little doubt that the increased cost of holidays during school holiday weeks is an increasing factor in parental decision making

## Enrichment activities

Forest School is now firmly established and formed part of two enrichment days focused on learning outside the classroom. These days are far from unique and a range of enrichment activity is always on offer and included World Book Day, a Poetry Masterclass, a Nepalese day and initiatives in Mental Health and the Green Curriculum.

## Admissions

The school’s current admissions arrangements adhere to the DfE guidance. The admission authority is Cheshire East. There are currently 193 students in the school and the total number of places for the academic year 2023/2024 is 210.

For the year 2023/2024 we have been able to accept all in area applications .

# School finances

The governing board is responsible for overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that its money is well spent. Cheshire East is one of the lowest funded authorities in respect of education but through careful management Mobberley has managed to retain a strong financial position. The school is not immune from the cost-of-living-crisis however. Increases in the cost of heating oil, electricity and paper along with the impact of the pay awards for support and teaching staff make the outlook challenging. A thriving PTA has raised funds to enhance aspects of the curriculum. In the past year monies have been devoted to additional fiction/non-fiction books, prayer garden resources and forest school resources.

Pupil Premium is additional funding given to schools to narrow attainment gaps between disadvantaged pupils and other pupils. It is paid for all pupils who claim free school meals or who have done so in the last six years. We would encourage all parents entitled to this benefit to do so as it amounts to £1345 per pupil in the coming year. In July 2023 there were 13 pupils registered at Mobberley. The Curriculum Subcommittee monitors how this funding is spent to ensure that it is targeted appropriately.