**Annual Governance Statement – 2024-25**

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 | Natalie Phillips | 13/11/27 | Curriculum |
| Paul Tarne | 28/3/2026 | Finance/PE Curriculum Link |
| Karen Whalley | 31/8/2026 | Curriculum |
| Dr Val Baker | 25/5/2026 | Curriculum/Music & Science Link |
| Canon Ian Blay | Ex-Officio | Buildings/Safeguarding/RE link |
|  | Cllr Hannah Moss | 25/3/28 | Buildings |
| 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

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 slightly above National averages. The Y1 phonics test stands at 87% currently (6% above national.) By Y6 our children typically achieve above National scores. Our Reading scores are a particular strength with 77% achieving expected, 26% at GD. The school has been in the top 20% of schools in the country for reading attainment for a number of years. Y6 Writing stands at 84% (12% above national) at Expected and 19% (6% above national) at GD. Y6 Maths at the expected level currently stands at 71%, with 16% at Greater Depth. This is broadly in line with national. Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar stands at 87% Expected (14% above national) and 32% GD. Typically, we are one of the highest performing schools in the local area.

We expected our oil fired heating system to be replaced with air-source heat pumps during the summer. Unfortunately this depended on a new electricity substation being positioned by Scottish Power. This didn’t happen. Although this can now be resolved, protracted negotiations between Cheshire East and the owner of the land leased for the main carpark also threaten to delay the start of the installation work. We are in the hands of third parties and can only hope that our existing system holds up through the coming months.

Cheshire East, our Local Authority, is in a serious financial position. Among some of the decisions it is making to balance its books is to withdraw from providing catering services to schools. Along with many other Cheshire East schools we have appointed a specialist to manage a process of selection for a new commercial provider to be in place for January 2025. While not planned, we hope that this will provide some creative opportunities for what can be provided by the school.

Our plans for the next year:

We will continue to press Cheshire East to resolve issues, including the lease arrangements for the car park, that are blocking the replacement of the heating system. We are working towards a new catering provision from January 2025.

# 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 although the lead teacher is currently on maternity leave. A range of enrichment activity is always on offer and included World Book Day, Singfest, Pilgrim Day, visits to such as Chester Zoo and the Romans in Chester. Bikeability, Road Safety and Internet Safety have all been featured this year.

## Admissions

The school’s current admissions arrangements adhere to the DfE guidance. The admission authority is Cheshire East. There are currently 190 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 and has now found itself in a serious financial situation. Through careful management Mobberley has historically managed to retain a strong financial position but this is now under threat. The school is not immune from the cost-of-living-crisis. Increases in the cost of heating oil, electricity and paper along with the impact of the unfunded pay awards for support and teaching staff make the outlook challenging. A thriving PTA has raised funds to enhance aspects of the curriculum. In particular this year they contributed to a £15,000 investment in up to date ICT equipment.

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 £1455 per pupil in the coming year. In July 2024 there were 16 pupils registered at Mobberley. The Curriculum Subcommittee monitors how this funding is spent to ensure that it is targeted appropriately.