



Unity Education Trust

## The Governance Statement 2020-2021

### **Annual Governance Statement for the Garvestone Review Board**

*July 2021*

Following the review of the Scheme of Delegation by the Trustees of Engage Trust, the core responsibilities of Garvestone Review Board (GRB) Local Governing Body are identified as follows:

1. Academic standards
2. Quality of Curriculum and Teaching and Learning
3. Pupil development and behaviour
4. Attendance
5. Community Engagement

This structure has been agreed with consideration as to where oversight responsibilities are best exercised and to ensure clear lines of accountability with no duplication of roles within the Trust.

#### **Governance arrangements**

Following continued challenges in recruiting Governors for the school oversight committee, Unity Education Trust has ensured that decisive action was taken to support local governance arrangements. A new Garvestone Review Board was established to ensure that the remaining governors and leaders received the appropriate support in maintaining the local governance role.

The Garvestone Review Board currently has 8 members comprising of Headteacher, 1 elected staff governor, 2 co-opted, 0 parent governor, the CEO and the Director of Education for Unity Education, 2 link Trustees from Unity Education Trust. Following the review of Governance capacity, it was agreed that all business and statutory duties would be carried out through the GRB without delegation to sub-committees.

The GRB meets every seven weeks and focuses on Teaching and Learning including curriculum offer, academic progress, attendance and behaviour for all pupil groups and impact of the Pupil Premium and PE and Sports. Minutes of meetings include clear actions and evidence of contributions to review, challenge and support from governors.

#### **Attendance record of governors**

All meetings planned in 2020/21 were held through virtual 'Teams' meetings during Covid19 restrictions. No meetings were postponed due to



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	<p>not being “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).</p> <p>Glyn Hambling (UET CEO) 6/6  Michelle Farnan (Headteacher) 6/6  Andy Mason (UET Director of Education) 6/6  Alan Jones (UET Trustee) 5/6  Michael Rose (UET Trustee) 6/6  Sharon Brown (Co-opted governor) 5/6  Janet Bazzoni (Staff Governor) 3/4  Adrian Horn (Parent Governor) 6/6  Alex Dolby (Staff Governor) 2/2</p> <p>Training attended during 2020-21  All governors received the appropriate safeguarding training and updates against Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance.  Glynn Hambling – Safeguarding September 2020; SEND Training May 2021; ARC Briefing June 2021.  Alan Jones – Safeguarding 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020; SEND Training May 2021; ARC Briefing June 2021;  Michael Rose – Safeguarding – September 2020  Sharon Brown – Norfolk Governor and Trustee Briefing February 2021; NGN Governance Conversation Norfolk Area SEND Strategy  Adrian Horn – Safeguarding – 19 January 2021  Alex Dolby – Safeguarding – September 2020</p> <p>Dates for all meetings with key agenda items and School Improvement Development Plan objective presentations are published on the work planner at the beginning of the school year as part of strategic overview of monitoring and accountability set out by Unity Education Trust. These objectives and presentations form an integral part of Governor monitoring throughout the year. In addition, Governors meet throughout the year in line with their nominated responsibility to monitor progress and aid familiarity with both staff and schools and to triangulate data presented at meetings with reality in schools, this work is supported by undertaking ‘deep dive’ reviews into key aspects of the school’s improvement development areas.</p>
<p><b>The work that we have done in our governing body</b></p>	<p>The Unity Education Trust Board provides support scrutiny pertaining to finance, personnel, premises and health &amp; safety so allowing the local governing body to concentrate on matters relating to improving academic standards, safeguarding and Pupil Premium / Sports Premium as detailed above.</p>



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School improvement this year has been informed by the completion of a School Self Review and SIDP (School Improvement and Development Plan) and any key issues continuing from any previous Ofsted action points.

Governors have a clear and thorough knowledge of all school improvement work through the termly Headteacher reports to governors, data presentations and through staff presentations on areas of development. Following all reports to meetings there is detailed questioning and challenge from governors. This helps to ensure that Governors are monitoring key school improvement milestones and associated timelines and holding school leaders to account for ensuring all areas of development / OFSTED recommendations are addressed.

School improvement reports presented:

- Teaching, Learning and assessment
- Attendance
- Power of Reading
- E-safety
- SEND report
- Pupil Premium strategy and impact review 20/21 plans for 21/22
- Disadvantaged pupil performance
- PE/sports plan and impact review plans for 20/21

Throughout the year the Review Board have supported Unity Education Trust Trustees and Leaders on key policy reviews in line with our cycle of reviews.

The GRB were closely involved in the annual Safeguarding review, including SCR audit, school self -review and compliance checklist and review of policy.

As part of our continued monitoring the governors have ensured that they have provided appropriate scrutiny and support and would like to highlight the following areas;

The review Board are immensely proud of all that the school has achieved throughout what has been an extremely turbulent time for our school throughout the COVID19 Pandemic.

The school have successfully run a blended approach to maintaining education for all our children with very robust tracking and monitoring of both academic standards and emotional wellbeing of children and staff.

Remote learning and developing ICT practice for engagement with home has become a strength of the school.



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	<p>We remain immensely proud of our staff who through the pandemic demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our children and the school.</p> <p>The teaching of reading has continued to be a one of main priorities within our school. The development of love of maths has been very refreshing and we are excited at the continued progression journey the school drives on for all learners across the curriculum.</p> <p>Our curriculum is enhanced very effectively by opportunities to extend learning out of the curriculum and whilst this has been restricted throughout the pandemic the planning for 2021/22 has been strong and engagement in virtual training and networking with UET schools has been good.</p> <p>Leaders strong culture of safeguarding remains at the forefront of all that we do and we pride ourselves on the high level of communication and relationship with our parents/ carers and the local community.</p> <p>Governors are invited to join staff CPD activities or training days.</p> <p>The governors have worked with UET Trustees to review governance at all levels and at the end of the academic year transferred into the Garvestone Academy Review Committee. (ARC)</p> <p>Staff presentations to the Review Board have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subject leader monitoring</li><li>• KS1 assessments and how these assessments feed into interventions and SIDP</li><li>• Curriculum sequencing and assessment</li><li>• Mathematics Development</li></ul> <p>Minutes of all Governors meetings include a log of actions and any challenge / questions raised by governors.</p>
<b>Future plans for the governors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On-going recruitment of Governors to ensure continued effectiveness of LGB and transition into the new Academy Review Committee structure in line with UET schemes of delegation.</li><li>• To provide support and challenge for the Headteacher and staff in drive to continue school improvement</li><li>• To review the Monitoring and link governor responsibilities to ensure all statutory areas and school improvement priorities are monitored effectively</li><li>• To access relevant VNET / Trust / Governor Association support and training for governors</li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To support the embedding and engage in the celebration of the ‘Pledges’ system across the school.</li><li>• To ensure that the school, its children, staff, families and governors where opportunities present themselves engage in the family of schools with UET and support the work of the wider Trust initiatives.</li><li>• To drive on continued development findings from Ofsted 2020.</li></ul> <p><i>The progression of knowledge from the early years to Year 6 is not as well planned in mathematics as it is in other subjects.</i></p> <p><i>Pupils’ attendance has been in the lowest 20% of schools for three years. Leaders have already acted to improve pupils’ attendance, but it has not been sufficiently effective.</i></p>
<b>How you can contact the governing body</b>	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/ stakeholders – please contact the Chair of Garvestone Review Board Mr Hambling or the Headteacher Mrs Farnan, via the Trust office. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; minutes of governing body meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors’ page of the school website.



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