



Newlands Junior School  
We are Proud

## **Governors' Impact Statement 2024/25**

Newlands is a unique and extraordinary school. The Governing Body has a vision for exceptional progress for all children, irrespective of their starting point, through inspirational teaching and leadership. Children will be enabled to become resilient learners, in a culture where there is no stereotyping of expectations, and the environment is safe and nurturing.

The governing body works to support the school to provide the best possible opportunities for our pupils as well as challenge leaders by offering constructive, critical feedback and reporting on positive developments helping to contribute to the development of the school's strategic thinking.

The governors of Newlands, like all other school governors, have a wide range of responsibilities. These responsibilities include the governing body ensuring that children are always safe, that they are learning effectively and making appropriate progress, that the school is financially efficient, and that our planning is well thought-out.

The hard work of continually improving the school on a day-to-day basis is achieved by our highly talented teachers, the senior leadership team, and by all of the support staff, but the governors have played a valuable role in ensuring that this progress takes place and the impact of any strategies implemented are assessed.

### **The Governing Body is divided into 2 working groups each monitoring a different area:**

- Pupils, Curriculum and Strategic Development
- HR, Finance and General Purposes

The following is a statement by the Governors of Newlands Junior School showing the monitoring work that has been carried out by the board and the impact that the visits have had for the education and well-being of the pupils.

### **The following is a list of some of the activities that Governors have taken part in during the period:**

- Carrying out Governor Monitoring activities, speaking at length with subject leaders about their work and goals for the future
- Taking part in the Head Teacher annual review of performance
- Ensuring that all Safeguarding measures are in place and keeping up to date with the latest safeguarding practices training
- Appointing staff to support the needs of the pupils
- Monitoring the budget and ensuring money is spent to strategically support the school's vision and staffing, impacting positively
- Monitoring of the Pupil Premium and Sports Premium strategy
- Ensuring that children are making the appropriate level of progress and that measures are in place to support SEND and disadvantaged children to make the very best possible progress

The list is not exhaustive but serves to highlight the huge amount of work going on in school.

## **So where was the real impact of the work of the Governing Body?**

### **School Development Plan**

Governors work co-operatively with the Headteacher and senior management in planning and monitoring the School Development Plan. The School Development Plan (SDP) sets aims for the forthcoming year. The current plan is based on priorities identified from whole school data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. It is set out with clear aims, the key tasks that will be completed in order to achieve these aims and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. It is monitored and reviewed termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to governors alongside the Headteacher report.

### **Governing Body Meetings**

Governors attend two governing body meetings each term. Governors are linked to key areas of School and have regular visits and meetings with staff to monitor progress. Governor visit reports, which are supported by an agreed report form to help Governors maintain and appropriate focus, are written and presented at full governing body meetings. The visits and reports impact greatly on the governing body's ability to effectively ask important questions, support but also hold senior leaders to account.

### **Impact of Finance and Resources Committee Meetings**

The school budget is scrutinised and reviewed in detail at these meetings. On this committee, we have governors with strong finance skills who review end of year budgets, attend pre-budget meetings and question surplus balances. Using benchmarking information, the committee scrutinises the effect of pupil numbers on the budget and how this impacts on staffing and resources.

Through working closely with the School Business Manager and Headteacher, the Finance and Resources Committee has supported the school and held it accountable to ensure effective budgeting monitoring. Careful monitoring and planning of the budget by the committee has impacted positively on subsequent years where budgets have enabled the school to have a strong and effective staffing structure to drive school improvements. The Finance and Resources Committee also ensure 'best value' when purchasing items or services.

### **Well-being**

Governors provide strong support for the Headteacher and senior leaders. The wellbeing of staff is a priority and this remains positive. This has resulted in stability which in turn supports children feeling happy and settled at school and able to focus on their learning. Pupil well-being is always a priority. Children are encouraged to be resilient learners who can recognise failure is a way of learning. Pupils are encouraged to recognise and express their emotions and know there is always someone to listen and react to their worries.

### **Pupil Premium Funding**

In comparison to other schools, Newlands Junior School receives a high percentage of Pupil Premium (PP) Funding. The Finance and Resources Committee approve the planned spend of PP funding each year and challenge the Headteacher and senior leaders on the impact of the spending. Governors scrutinise evidence of impact on the outcomes for PP Children. Data and evidence show pupils make good progress whilst at Newlands. They are also supported emotionally with the employment of an Emotional Literacy Lead and the development of cultural capital is funded within the school budget in order to provide a wide variety of visits, visitors and experiences which provide new experiences and open doors for the future. Details of the impact of Pupil Premium spending can be found on the website.

### **Sports Premium Funding**

The Finance and Resources Committee also monitors how the schools spends the Sports Premium Funding. The Primary PE and Sport Premium is ring-fenced and must only be spent on physical education and sport provision in schools. The funding aims to achieve improvement in all areas of PE, from the standard of physical education to introducing health focused physical activities and after school sports. Newlands has achieved the Gold Sports Award. Physical activity is a priority for physical and emotional well-being. 30 active minutes are carried out daily as well as Skip2Bfit. A wide range of competitions are organised within school, particularly at lunchtimes and across schools. There are also a wide range of professional coaches working with the children and a variety of after school clubs. The development of the girls' football team has been a huge success this year. Details of the impact of Sports Premium spending can be found on the website.

### **Safeguarding**

The monitoring of safeguarding practices is a key priority for governors and is ongoing throughout the year. Along with the Headteacher governors conduct an annual safeguarding audit and monitor the actions identified from the audit. Safeguarding reports presented at FGB meetings provide an opportunity to challenge the safeguarding culture of the school and ensure robust procedures and practises are in place. Safeguarding questions are asked during governor visits through pupil conferencing. The impact of this challenge and monitoring ensures children are safe and know they have people to talk to at all times. This year, children have taken part in Anti-knife crime week, Anti-bullying week, E-safety week and Diversity week in order to understand safety in the home and local environment.

### **Inspection**

The Local Authority has carried out an inspection of the school which remains very positive. The current priorities are to ensure monitoring is effective in creating impact, pupil premium attendance and to update the format of the SDP so the results are clearer throughout the year. Curriculum documents are being reviewed and implemented in order to set out precisely what pupils need to know. Pupil voice shows sticky knowledge is embedded for the majority of pupils.

### **Recruitment**

Members of the governing body have completed "safer recruitment" training and have contributed to the successful recruitment of staff. Staffing is a priority for the governing body as outstanding role models and practitioners are vital to create enthusiastic, well educated, responsible individuals who are ready for the next stage of their learning when they leave Newlands.

### **Progress and Attainment**

Governors have provided support and challenge in order to ensure pupils make excellent progress whilst at Newlands. Results at the end of KS2 are always above national averages despite low starting points. Data is made available to governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the headteacher and members of the senior management team, holding them to account, especially for pupils or groups of learners who may have lower attainment. Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium Funding.