



## Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Victoria Lane Academy 2021 - 2022

### School Vision/Mission Statement

As a school, Victoria Lane Academy recognises that each child is an individual; that all children are creative; that all children need to succeed. Therefore, our school respects the individual needs of children; fosters a caring and creative environment; and emphasises the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of each child. Our aim is to ensure children become independent and self-sufficient adults who will succeed as lifelong learners and contribute responsibly in a global community.

The Governing Body of Victoria Lane Academy has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

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

### Governance arrangements

The Local Governing Body (LGB) of Victoria Lane Academy comprises ten governors. The Head Teacher and two other members of staff, two Parent Governor and eight governors appointed by Tudhoe Learning Trust. There is also one Associate Governor. The full Governing Body meets once a term and there are also sub-committees: - Pupil Progress, which meets twice each term and looks at all aspects of the education, progress, attainment and well-being of all our children. There are also subcommittees which meet as and when required i.e., Personnel, Pay Review and Appeals. As a member of a multi-academy trust (Tudhoe Learning Trust) the Board of Directors also meet each term. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Directors are legally responsible for the results from all academies and overall financial running of the Trust. The responsibilities of the Local Governing Body are laid out in a Scheme of Delegation produced by Tudhoe Learning Trust which can be found on the Trust website. Heads and Chairs of each school within the Trust have separate meetings each term to look at the education of all the children and how this can be improved. Reports of these meetings are submitted to the LGB meetings.

**Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body**

Each September, the Senior Leadership Team produces a School Development Plan, in consultation with all members of staff and Governors and Executive Head. This Plan lays out what requires doing to maintain the progress being made by our children, based on information taken from the SATs results and teacher assessment, and identifies where additional work needs to be done. This forms the basis for what governors and SLT consider the areas where monitoring, by governors, will be most effective. Subject leaders produce reports for the GB throughout the year. The Head Teacher also produces a report each term, which is presented at the full Governing Body meeting. and then headings which follow Ofsted criteria - The Quality of Leadership in, and Management of the School, Behaviour and Safety in School, The Quality of Teaching, Achievement and Overall Effectiveness. There are also sections on the Performance Management of staff, Pupil Premium, Sports Premium, if there are any looked after children, exclusions, and any incidents which require reporting. Governors can ask questions of the Head Teacher. This covers class structure and organisation, staff information and responsibilities.

21/22 has, in some ways been worse, as far as Covid is concerned, than 20/21. The Trust obtained funding to enable the school to have a new, more efficient boiler installed 2 years ago. This was fine initially but leaks were then detected, in various parts of the school, which meant that floors had to be dug up and the heating switched off until repairs could be carried out. Heaters have been obtained from the Local Authority. It's hoped that further tests will be carried out on the heating system so that the school does not have to close again.

For the coming school year, staff will ensuring that any gaps are closed in children's knowledge of the curriculum and then bring the levels of attainment back up to where they used to be.



There are several different sources where the impact of what the staff and governors are doing can be measured. The Department for Education (DfE) publishes data for both schools and parents. This information can be accessed from the school website. Then there are the inspections carried out by OFSTED – these inspections provide a rigorous testing of the school’s judgement as to how well the school is doing. Victoria Lane Academy was inspected by OFSTED in September 2018 and was found to be GOOD. This is all due to the hard work and professionalism of all the staff. The Chief Executive Officer (Mr Jim Smith) is also involved in monitoring visits on a regular basis. Every year staff from other members of Tudhoe Learning Trust carry out what is called a Peer-to-Peer Review which is a detailed inspection of the school, very similar to an Ofsted inspection, and a qualified educationalist then checks the findings of the inspection to ensure that it is fair and accurate. Recommendations are then made for the school to carry out to ensure constant improvement in the children’s education. Governors also do monitoring visits, over the year, the direction of which is decided at the Planning meeting held in September. Subject leaders also produce reports for governors and, usually attend one GB meeting each year where they can answer questions raised by governors. The Pupil Progress Committee meet each half term with members of the Senior Leadership Team to look at previously agreed aspects of how the children are taught and to undertake a work scrutiny to identify whether progress is being made across the school.

Staff and Governors must continue to seek to make continuous improvements to the way our children are educated and to adopt and adapt to the continual changes being made to the curriculum and many other aspects of school life. Ofsted now expect that each school will adapt the curriculum to ensure that it is suited to the children who attend the school and a lot of work has been undertaken. However, to ensure the children continue to make good or outstanding progress, it is necessary for parents to be fully involved in their child’s education and support the school by ensuring that each child does their homework, reads and understands and comes to school on time and is ready to learn.

The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office.

Details of the full Governing Body and the attendance record are available on the school website.