

## **NEWBRIDGE LEARNING COMMUNITY ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/26.**

### **School Governance:**

The constitution of the Governing Body provides for 12 members, including parent, staff and Local Authority representatives as well as co-opted members with a keen interest in the school and education in general, but most importantly a real passion for our pupils at Newbridge Learning Community. Our aim is to ensure that every pupil feels valued and respected as individuals and to see that they are constructively involved in the life and work of the school.

There are four meetings of the Full Governing Body (FGB) each year, which focus on Learning and Wellbeing, the curriculum, financial matters, including monitoring of the school budget, building and maintenance work at school and staffing proposals. There is a Pay Committee that receives detailed reports on the performance of the Headteacher and teaching staff (through the agreed appraisal process) and makes decisions on pay progression where appropriate.

Governors also have several specific responsibilities for designated aspects within the school such as Safeguarding, Vulnerable Children and Health and Safety. Governors have and are made welcome to attend school based activities such as exhibitions of work by students and presentation evenings and undertake governance visits to school to look at all aspects of the school environment.

The Governing Body have information readily available, through their "Portal" where reports, essential school policies and data, and other information and items of interest to Governors can be stored electronically. Governors also have access to the "School Bus" Information system as well as keeping up to date on Governance matters through the "GovernorHub" system.

In 2024/25 there were changes in the membership of the Governing Body. Major efforts have been made to recruit new Governors with a knowledge and understanding of special education provision and to recruit parent governors. Whilst we have been successful with new members joining the board, parent governor vacancies still exist with these aimed to be filled by the end of October 2025.

The Ofsted Inspection Team who were in school in March 2024 concluded that our school remains as a **Good School**, which is just reward for the hard work put in by all those connected with school.

### **Attendance Record of Governors**

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings with a return to all meetings being held in school. A full register of Governors Attendance during the 2024/25 academic year is available on the School Website - Information - Governors Information - Governor Meeting Attendance 2024 -25

## **Key Issues Faced and Addressed by the Governing Body**

The Governing Body are aware of the increasingly challenging needs of the pupils coming into school in terms of their low prior levels of attainment and social and emotional health needs. Never has the school had such a high number of pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

The Governing Body has had a busy year during the 2024/25 academic year, supporting the new staff team under the leadership of our new Headteacher. After a high turnover of staff the whole school has worked brilliantly together to quickly form a togetherness which has ensured a smooth transition that has seen the needs of our pupils have continued to be met. The staff group have faced adversity this year with the sudden passing of a long standing and valued colleague. They found ways to support each other, the pupils and their colleagues' family.

Governors closely monitor outcomes achieved and the success of targeted interventions. The Headteacher provides detailed information on the performance of each yeargroup in each subject on a termly basis and this data allows for challenge to be offered on the rate of pupil progress. The School and Governors are not complacent.

Governors also know their role in safeguarding (Mr Chris Bennett as our named Governor) A full audit of our Safeguarding systems has been undertaken, with Mr Bennett taking part in regular meetings with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) where we self-evaluate our systems and procedures ensuring we meet our responsibilities. This approach has worked well and that the team feel supported in the vital work they do.

Another role of the Governing Body is to review and agree school policies, which are available on the School Website. This year we have considered several key policies and have made them available on our website.

All Governors have specific areas of responsibility, and they will be looking at areas such as Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Looked After Children, Health and Safety, Curriculum & Pupil Premium, and the School Council. This enables the Governing body to effectively look at all areas of the school in a constructive way, encouraging evaluation and improvements to those specific areas. The Governing Body has always placed great importance on pupil welfare and behaviour and receives detailed reports on these.

Governors are mindful of the pressures on staff and are flexible in ways of supporting their wellbeing. The incoming Headteacher has made this a priority, with the success of these interventions helping to mould the staff team together. Governors receive detailed information on staff attendance and in particular, information on the reasons for nonattendance to ensure appropriate support is in place.

Governors very much recognise the challenges on the school to ensure it continues to function effectively. Quality of Teaching and Learning: Governors recognise that good quality teaching and learning is fundamental to pupil's achieving their potential. The school therefore puts considerable effort into providing staff with opportunities to continually improve and to develop their skills.

In January 2025 initial discussions were instigated by the Council regarding options to potentially increase the size of the school. It is possible these conversations will start again in the coming months. Any significant changes will be subject to a formal consultation.

### **Managing the Budget:**

Despite the effective way in which finances are managed the pressures for the financial year 2025/26 have never been greater and in line with many schools this provides a significant challenge for the coming year. The increasing level of need shown by the young people in school requires a high level of adult intervention with the school working closely with the Council to ensure an infrastructure is in place that allows the needs of both pupils and staff are met.

Mr Michael Inman, Chair of Governors

18/07/25.