

## Egerton Primary Annual Governance Statement 2022-23

It is good practice for the Local Governing Body to publish an annual governance statement to explain how it has fulfilled its responsibilities, particularly in relation to its core functions, including:

- The governance arrangements that are in place, including the detailed responsibilities of any committees
- An assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the Governing Body and any committees with details of any particular challenges.
- The attendance record of individual governors at board and committee meetings

It is also appropriate for the Governors to comment on the performance of the school during the year.

### Governance Arrangements

Following the merger of Knutsford Multi Academy and Congleton Multi Academy to form 'The Learning Alliance' the role of the Local Governing Bodies was refocused to give priority to education, welfare and of course safeguarding. We also have an oversight (in a consultative role only) of the school financial position but that is managed centrally by the Alliance and the Head.

This arrangement was put in place in 2021-22 has continued during this academic year. It has been successfully implemented through regular Local Governing Body meetings at least once per term and school visits that have focused on the development and delivery of individual subjects across the National Curriculum and most importantly the safeguarding, SEND and health & safety arrangements at the school. These have been enhanced this year by aligning our visits with the priorities identified in the school improvement plan. We have had 5 visits per term and these are reviewed by the local board as part of our governing process.

We have 2 Governors with statutory responsibilities, Liz Elliott who is our SEND Governor and Karen Benson who is our Safeguarding Governor.

As Chair I have also attended termly Chairs Forum meetings across the Alliance.

The Egerton Governing Body is composed of 9 Governors and the Head Teacher:

One Head Teacher	Alison Hooper
Chair of Governors	Neil McKinlay
Two Parent Governors	Sarah McGuire Andy Martin
Six Co-opted Governors	Thomas Hardman Elizabeth Elliott Robin Maxwell Karen Benson George Hughes Vacancy

At the end of this year both Tom Hardman and Liz Elliott are stepping down as Governors and I thank them both for their contributions over the last 6 years. Liz has been our SEND Governor and her excellent contribution was commented on during our recent Ofsted inspection.

For a governing body to be effective and contribute to the success of the school, a wide range of skills are required so we regularly complete a skills audit to help the process of choosing new governors and organizing the training that we require.

I am delighted that we have 3 new recruits who will be confirmed as Governors after the various checks are made.

Only parent governors are subject to a voting system.

Governors are all volunteers and despite some people having busy careers that often mean that they are away from home we have with few exceptions had good attendance at our Board meetings and have delivered a full set of school visits this year.

In addition, I am happy to report that the school continues to be in a strong financial position despite the well-publicised cost of living issues that we all face. The school has also had some investment in building improvements during the year, most notably the replacement of the central heating boiler and the fire doors.

## **School Year**

Once again the school has had an excellent year and has returned to normality after the disruption caused by COVID. Egerton continues to have a strong standing in our community in our 130<sup>th</sup> year and is recognised for the quality of its education in the broadest sense, delivering on our vision of allowing “The child to thrive”

The work put into curriculum design and delivery has continued be strong and this was recognised in our recent Ofsted inspection. This took place in January and whilst the overall judgement was good, behaviour & attitude and personal development were identified as being outstanding. It is a real credit to Mrs Hooper and her team that they achieved such a strong result.

I am pleased that the Trust has agreed to fund the Egerton Kenya Partnership and as a result the charity will be wound up at the end of 2023 but the Partnership will remain. We are looking forward to the visit of the teachers from Kenya in November and are very excited that they will be accompanied by their Minister for Education.

The school has been awarded its 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive International Schools’ Award marking 15 years of outstanding practice. The report stated:

*‘It is evident that your school has made remarkable progress and has successfully cultivated a genuine global learning ethos that informs long-term planning and policy. This is evident through a diverse range of ongoing international activities. It is truly remarkable to see how students across all year levels, from reception to year 6, actively engage in discussions on global issues such as climate change. The partnerships with Tatton Park and the Egerton family provide further opportunities to engage the wider community, while the significance of the Egerton Legacy connects the past, present, and future within your school, the local area, and the partner school in Kenya.’*

It would be remiss not to mention the Egerton Lions Club. This has gone from strength to strength and demand for places has continued to rise and we regularly have 40 children attending. In addition, we will be running a summer club during the holidays and demand has been strong.

Attendance this year has been slightly lower at 96.2% to the end of the Spring term – the historical norm is around 97%. This reduction is mainly due to illness but there have been some isolated instances of holidays being taken during term time.

### **SATS**

As you know SATS were taken this year but the results will not be available until the end of term so they will be reported separately.

### **Finally**

After 18 successful years Mrs Hooper is leaving Egerton to take up a position within the Trust developing our primary school offering. Alison and her team have made Egerton a very special school where children really do thrive. We will all miss her and wish her every success in her new role.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Caroline Lowe as our new Head. She is highly experienced and is joining us in September.

### **How to contact your Governing Body**

Information about the School's Governing Body is available on the Governors' page of the school's website.

Neil McKinlay

Chair of Governors