



Chair of Governors Annual Statement Archibald First School

In the past year the governing body of Archibald First School continued in its key roles of providing strategic planning, holding the head teacher to account and ensuring that the school met its statutory and financial obligations.

The work of the governing body was spread between a number of committees including Finance, Leadership Support and Teaching and Learning. These committees met once a term to review policies, evaluate data, ask questions, make decisions and ensure that the school was always looking ahead to meet new challenges as they arose. In addition to committee and full governing body meetings, governors took part in visits to the school during class time to view policies in action and to see for themselves how the school was functioning day-to-day. These visits proved tremendously useful for us and have helped to ensure that we have a proper understanding of how the school works.

The governor brief is very wide and it is important to stay up to date on subjects as diverse as health and safety, employment law, finance and budgeting, safeguarding and protection as well as changes to the law and to local and national policies. In order to keep our knowledge current, governors took part in online training sessions provided by the Modern Governor website, as well as attending the excellent training sessions that are provided by Newcastle City Council and receiving briefings on relevant policy changes.

We also continued to work as part of the Gosforth School's Trust and see this relationship as key to the continued future success of Archibald first school.

The year ended with Archibald First School being recognised by Ofsted as an Outstanding school. This is a real achievement for the whole school that we should all be proud of. Governance of the school is a specific focus area for Ofsted inspections and we were delighted to be able to play our part.

In the year to come we aim to build on the improvements we have made to our own standards of governance. Specifically, we will focus on:

- Building the capability of the governor team
- Succession planning to ensure that skills and good practice are carried forward
- Deepening our work with the Gosforth School's Trust

Finally, the past year saw John Davison step down from his role of Chair of Governors after five years. During this time the school has gone from strength to strength and John's work and leadership during this period have played an important part in making Archibald the Outstanding school it is today. On behalf of the governing body I would like to thank John for his dedication to the school and for the difference he has made.

John Hulme
Chair of Governors