

### Aims and Vision of the School 2020/21

The DfE have high expectation of Governors. They consider Governors are the strategic leaders of schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education. This is reflected in law for maintained schools which states that the purpose of a maintained school's Full Governing Body is to "conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school" (section 21 (2) of the Education Act 2002).

All Governing bodies should have strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- a) Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- b) Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- c) Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure it's money is well spent.

Mowbray School's ethos is based on the acronym "SURE" which stands for "Achieving Success through Understanding, Respect and Endeavour".

- **Success:** Mowbray School teaches children the skills and knowledge they need to help prepare them for adulthood, meet their emotional needs and well-being. Success is relative to each individual and measured by each pupil achieving his or her true potential. We believe that through mutual respect, relationships and understanding, children will learn and achieve success, celebrating achievements personally with each child.
- **Understanding:** We understand that all children have different educational needs and those we educate have significant difficulties. All staff seek to understand and respect each child's personal circumstances, to empathise with and help them understand their own difficulties and personal well-being. Equally, pupils are taught that all people have feelings and emotions, and to understand how others are affected by their actions. Above all, Mowbray School aims to provide a learning environment that values individual and cultural difference, that promotes equality and diversity and ensures a passionate approach towards meeting the needs of children.
- **Respect:** Pupils need to respect their own abilities and raise their own self-esteem to enable them to achieve their true potential. All children also need to understand that others wish to be treated fairly, kindly and politely. One of the greatest challenges our children face is how to interact with others. Often, the reason they have been allocated a place at Mowbray School is because relationships with others, whether adults or children, have failed. Equally, our school staff by their conduct and relationships they make, can provide excellent examples of personal integrity and compassion to meet each child's individual needs.
- **Endeavour:** It is important that children learn that they need to put considerable effort into everything they do in order to succeed. Mowbray School helps young people with significant and complex learning difficulties to achieve their best. We provide education appropriate to each individual child and recognise the need to address the whole child to ensure that his or her social, physical, cognitive and emotional needs are interwoven in their education.

This is a clear statement of Ethos which underpins all learning and values that parents, carers, pupils and staff share wish to promote and develop at Mowbray School. It sets out the clear Aims and Values at the school.

As a Governing Body our Core Aims for the school are pupil focused to ensure that all children attending are safe and receive the best education and support possible focussed on their individual needs with the clear aim that each pupil is prepared for adulthood with at the heart of it:

- Friends and relationships
- Independent living,
- Good health, and
- ‘My place in society and employment’.

To achieve this the Governing Body have a Vision for the school ensuring that, as far as is possible within the financial constraints imposed, the School has in place and will provide:

- A forward-looking and dynamic leadership team to develop, share and enhance good practice throughout the school.
- Sufficient experienced and qualified staff to fully support the needs of pupils and, by training and staff development maintain an outstanding overall quality of teaching.
- A safe environment for all pupils at the school in which they can learn, prosper, gain confidence and grow.
- An organisational structure that will provide the best and most efficient support structure to administer the operation of the School.
- To continue to reinforce the student assessment systems to accurately measure pupil progress linked to the curriculum.
- To utilise the budget provided in the most efficient way possible to achieve the core aims and the appropriate environment and facilities for the school.
- A curriculum based around ‘Pathways of learning’ that is able to encompass all the individual needs/abilities of our pupils so that, bearing those needs in mind, each pupil is provided with the skills for life in preparation for adulthood.

The new satellite primary provision at the former Moorside Infant School, Ripon opened in January 2020. This has proved very successful and, assuming capital development continues as anticipated, the capacity of the school will be fully utilised during the next academic year. It is pleasing that as intended, in all respects, this satellite is an extension of Mowbray School with the same ethos, procedures, curriculum, opportunities and performance ideals.

Governors are facing a number of challenges not least of which is the continuing increase in applications for places at the school. It is predicted that this demand will further increase as a result of the predicted up to 25% rise in the number of EHCPs over the next 3/4 years. Mowbray School’s site at Bedale is already fully utilised and there is only limited scope for expansion to satisfy this additional pressure for places. But, by building on the success of its Ripon Satellite, Governors are actively considering developing a new secondary Satellite provision in partnership with the Local Authority as a way of satisfying this demand and improving opportunities for Students.

Whereas the creation of a further satellite may satisfy the increasing demand for places in the Hambleton and Richmondshire area for those who wish to attend a new satellite provision, there is still the underlying need to improve and invest in the over occupied facilities at Bedale. This would

ensure that school has the appropriate infrastructure necessary to support the current needs of the Student population.

Governors are also aware of the need to ensure that the 16+ provision available to our Students after they leave School in year 11 provides sufficient appropriate options to ensure that all students can continue a challenging and meaningful education in preparation for adulthood.

The Governing Board will need to continue to reach pragmatic solutions to all the challenges facing it to enable Mowbray School to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. It recognises that it will be essential to build appropriate close working relations with other SEND providers to develop mutual good practice, efficiencies and improve opportunities for all students.