Annual Governance Statement
for the Governing Body of
Harrold Lower School
January 2016

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Harrold Lower School Governing Body are:

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

Governance arrangements	The Governing Body of Harrold Lower School was re-constituted in November 2014 and is made up of • the Headteacher, • 1 Staff Governor, • 4 elected Parent Governors, • 1 Local Authority Governor, • 3 Co-opted Governors and 2 Partnership Governors. The Full Governing Body ("FGB") meets at least once each half term, with additional meetings as required. In addition, we have 3 committees to allow the Governors to consider different aspects of the school in detail. Harrold Lower School has a Resources Committee, which focuses on finance, premises and health & safety matters; a School Development Committee, which focuses on curriculum, pupil progress and attainment and the strategic vision for the school, and a Personnel and Pay Committee. Each committee includes Governors with relevant skills and experience. Committees operate under formal terms of reference which are reviewed annually and are responsible for overseeing specific areas of School life and reporting back to the FGB. A list of Governors and their roles can be found on the school website.
Attendance record of governors	Governors have good attendance at meetings – full details on the school website - http://harroldlowerschool.co.uk/governors/
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body	Governors were instrumental in facilitating the move of Harrold Pre-school to their new building on the Lower School site. The aim of this project was to ease the transition from Pre-school to Reception class and provide first class facilities for our community's pre-schoolers. It was an exciting summer in 2014 with the installation of the new purpose built buildings for the Pre School and our Year R and Year 1 classes, providing a fantastic learning environment for our children. The introduction of a Before and After school club, run by Dawn 'til Dusk, also started in January 2015. This was something governors were aware parents had been asking for, for a long time. The Governors would like to be able to offer holiday club facilities as well but numbers need to be viable for Dawn 'til Dusk to run a holiday club and so we would encourage families to use this facility. The School Development Committee has spent time considering the new curriculum that was

	introduced from September 2014, together with the changes in assessment (except Year 2 who change to the new curriculum this academic year). Governors regularly discuss key data regarding pupil attainment and progress across the School and to ensure the School is working to ensure we help each pupil reach his or her full potential. We focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant and Sports Funding is being spent and the impact this has on the pupil outcomes; the results are published on the school web site. Safeguarding all the children at Harrold Lower is a priority for all Governors; our "Nominated Governor" for Safeguarding, Mrs Murdoch and Headteacher, Mrs Royden meet regularly and report termly to the Governors about any significant safeguarding matters and what action has been taken. Staff training in safeguarding areas is a priority for our School. The Resources Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and makes recommendations to the FGB about how the school budget should be set to ensure expenditure is appropriate. In the spring term, the FGB approved the 2015/16 budget plan for the school: we are pleased that careful financial management means the school has a contingency fund which is managed & reviewed by the Resources committee at every meeting. The priority of our budget is focused on standards and quality of teaching. The Governing Body is responsible for the review of policies & procedures and have approved various updated policies in accordance with new legislation during the year so that we are fully compliant and up to date. Policies can be seen on the school website. Following the resignation of three staff members during summer 2015, the Governing Body have been working, together with Mrs Royden, to ensure that a high quality, safe recruitment process was held for both positions. We are delighted to have been successful in appointing Mrs Suzanne Payne, Mrs Jackie Manley and also the return of Mrs Karen Corby from maternity leave to a shared role with Mrs Barbara Aellen.
Future plans for the governors	The Governing Body is looking forward to building on the previous academic year's successes with the new academic year from September 2015. The 2015/16 school development plan is being carefully considered and implemented and governors monitor this closely. With the appointment of Mrs Payne as Assistant Head alongside our Head Teacher and other senior staff, we have a strong senior leadership team to take the School forward. We are considering the position of the School with regard to the two tier discussions which are ongoing within Bedford Borough and are liaising with our neighbours, Harrold Priory Middle School, part of the Sharnbrook Academy Federation, and together we are involved in dialogue with all the local North Bedfordshire schools. As part of this plan the aim is to extend the age range by 2 years and become a Primary school, taking children through to the end of Year 6. Whatever the outcome of the current discussions, the Governors of Harrold Lower will continue to work with our local community to ensure we provide a learning environment where every individual in our School can thrive.
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact our Chair of Governors, Mrs Charsley, via the school office. A full list of governors and more information about the school can be found at http://harroldlowerschool.co.uk/governors/