



*Ellington Primary School
Head teacher's Report
Governing Body Meeting*

15th March 2023

School Context

Number on roll

<u>Class</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nursery – Mrs Pirie	23	13	36
Reception – Mrs Cook	12	16	28
Year 1 – Mrs Horsley	11	12	23
Year 2 – Mr McConville	8	21	29
Year 3 – Mrs Morris/Mrs Richardson	16	10	26
Year 4 – Mrs Sanders	14	7	21
Year 5 – Mr Todd	18	12	30
Year 6 – Miss Gray	10	12	22
Totals	112	103	215

Pupil Premium: 20.5% – 44 children (Including Nursery)

Free School Meals: 15.6% – 28 children

Ever 6 measure: 1.7% – 3 Children

SEND: 17.2% – 37 children (Including Nursery)

Service Children: 1.9% – 4 children (Including Nursery)

Post Looked After: 1.4% – 3 children (Including Nursery)

After Easter, we will be increasing our Nursery numbers with five new children starting. In order to enable this, we will need an additional adult in Nursery each morning. Our predictions for Reception for September are low with only 19 first choices showing on the Northumberland County Council portal. This is expected to rise to 21 with two late applicants but is still well below our plan of 30.

We are losing 3 children from year 4 to Middle Schools so our Year 5 class next year will be down to 18 children.

We have again had significant problems with Year 7 admissions. Initially, we had 9 children allocated to St Benet Biscop in Bedlington. This has now changed to 2 children as the other 7 have been allocated to Duke's. I have asked for a meeting with colleagues from Northumberland County Council to discuss the situation.

Attendance

Whole School Attendance 7th September 2022 – 3rd March 2023

	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Total % Attendance	92.2%	94.8%	96.1%	95%	95.4%	92.9%	96.3%
+/- compared to school average	-2.3%	+0.3%	+1.6%	+0.5%	+0.9%	-1.6%	+1.8%

Attendance this year is currently **94.5%** which has fallen from Autumn term (94.98%). We have a number of persistent absentees. We have issued formal warnings to five families and two families have been issued fixed penalties. I am working closely with the EWO, Jenny Mollon, to target these children and families.

In Autumn term, we rewarded children with 99 or 100% attendance with a film morning and treats. We also had a raffle with prizes of books and tickets for a Newcastle United premier league game. We will repeat this, this half term with different prizes. We now share attendance in our fortnightly newsletters.

Current Staffing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Upper Pay scale/ additional leadership responsibilities</u>	<u>Main scale coordinator role</u>
Kevin Hodgson Head Teacher	Achievement/Attainment of pupils Assessment and Pupil Progress Teacher performance management	Child protection lead Teaching and Learning	Acting French Lead
Louise Gray Assistant Headteacher	Year 6 Class Teacher Teaching Assistant Performance Management	Curriculum Lead – Science, History and Geography	
Dan McConville Assistant Headteacher	Year 2 Class Teacher Pupil Premium Lead	Maths Lead	
Fiona Pirie EYFS Lead	Nursery Teacher Child protection	EYFS Assessment	Design Technology Lead

	<i>Designated person</i>		
<i>Julia Morris</i>	<i>Year 3 teacher</i>	<i>SENCO</i>	<i>Mental Health Lead</i>
<i>Claire Sanders</i>	<i>Year 4 teacher</i>	<i>English Lead</i>	<i>RE Lead</i>
<i>Rachel Richardson</i>	<i>Year 3 teacher</i>	<i>Computing Lead</i>	<i>Music Lead</i>
<i>Samantha Horsley</i>	<i>Year 1 teacher</i>		<i>PSHE Lead</i>
<i>Eilish Nicholson</i>	<i>Maternity</i>		
<i>Stuart Todd</i>	<i>Year 5 teacher</i>		<i>PE Lead</i>
<i>Jade Cook</i>	<i>Reception teacher</i>		<i>Art Lead</i>
<i>Annette Mallaburn</i>	<i>UKS2 teaching assistant</i>		
<i>Karen Sayers</i>	<i>UKS2 teaching assistant</i>		
<i>Ella Brooks</i>	<i>KS2 teaching assistant</i>		
<i>Cathryn Strachan</i>	<i>LKS2 teaching assistant</i>		
<i>Andrea Mitchison</i>	<i>KS1 teaching assistant</i>		
<i>Steph Patrick (P/T)</i>	<i>KS1 teaching assistant</i>		
<i>Hayley Curtis (P/T)</i>	<i>KS1 teaching assistant</i>		
<i>Tracy Goodhall</i>	<i>EYFS teaching assistant</i>		
<i>Glenn Liddle (P/T)</i>	<i>EYFS teaching assistant</i>		
<i>Rachel Hays (P/T)</i>	<i>EYFS teaching assistant</i>		
<i>Pam Hunter</i>	<i>School Bursar</i>		
<i>Jenny Dyer</i>	<i>P/T Administration Officer</i>		
<i>Ed Robertson</i>	<i>Site Manager</i>		
<i>Hayley Curtis</i>	<i>Cleaner / Lunchtime Supervisor</i>		
<i>Pauline Millis</i>	<i>Lunchtime Supervisor</i>		
<i>Julie Emery</i>	<i>Catering Manager</i>		
<i>Alysson Grant</i>	<i>Catering Assistant</i>		
<i>Julie Bramwell</i>	<i>Catering Assistant/Cleaner</i>		

Staffing Update

Staffing has been stable so far this academic year. Eilish Nicholson had a baby girl in November so is currently on maternity. We have appointed a temporary teaching assistant, Ella Brooks, who is based in Year 4 every morning and covers PPA across the school every afternoon. Unfortunately, Pam Hunter remains absent from school due to a serious road traffic accident in September 2022. She remains very supportive to the school and is keen to return to work as

soon as possible. This half term, we have had admin support from the Ashington Learning Partnership. Unfortunately, Mrs Pirie is absent from school and has been all of this Spring term. Mrs Redpath is covering in Nursery.

In-service Training, Whole School Staff Development

- RWI
- Fire Safety
- Safeguarding Bitesize training: Child on Child Abuse, County Lines, Emotional Abuse
- Unicef Rights Respecting
- SEND – Mike Finlay (Head of SEND Northumberland County Council)
- Curriculum – Knowing more, Remembering more
- Mental Health Wellbeing
- Developing our Science Curriculum

School Improvement Plan

Quality of Education

We have had a huge focus on improving the standard of reading across the school. All staff have had phonics training and a new reading curriculum is now embedded. Reading is given the highest priority in our curriculum and this is widely acknowledged and celebrated amongst staff and children. We have designated reading lessons in addition to English lessons and also designated daily story time in all classes. Our curriculum is evolving and we are constantly refining our practise to ensure the children learn more and remember more.

Leadership and Management

I believe that Leadership and Management is becoming a real strength of the school. The new senior leadership team work tirelessly to improve progress and attainment. Middle leaders are developing very well with designated time for monitoring and subject specific CPD. Governor monitoring is well established now and happens regularly. Although teacher workload is heavy, we are very conscious of staff wellbeing and have taken measures to reduce workload when possible.

Early Years

Our new indoor environment is a huge improvement for the children and we are working hard to develop our outdoor provision. Unfortunately, our Early Years lead Mrs Pirie has been absent from school this term. We have a Mrs Redpath covering her absence and she has been a fantastic addition. We now have a number of children who stay in Nursery for 30 hours per week and this has been successful. Nursery will be full for summer term. Our Early Years curriculum has been further developed this year and our enrichment offer includes our Reception children. Staff are working hard to develop the children's independence and speech and language.

Personal Development

Personal development opportunities are continuing to grow and are outstanding. We are working towards the UNICEF Rights Respecting bronze award which we believe will give children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens. We offer the children at Ellington a whole range of different experiences inside and outside of the classroom and have recently developed a curriculum enrichment overview which details the wide range of trips and visitors each class does. It also highlights the diversity, safeguarding and environmental topics that each year group will cover.

Behaviour and Attitudes

This year, we have continued to focus on our whole school values that underpin our vision of 'Believe and Achieve':

Honesty – being fair and truthful at all times.

Respect – for yourself, your family and your community.

Pride – in everything you do; aspiring to be the best version of you.

Resilience – recovering from difficulties, attempting things that will be hard and challenging.

Teamwork – working successfully with others.

Happiness – enjoying school and embracing life.

In February we had a celebration assembly with parents/carers. Each teacher nominated two children for the Autumn values of Respect and Resilience. They were presented with special badges that they wear everyday on their uniform. Parents/carers were invited in to a surprise assembly which was a lovely occasion.

In school we use Class Dojo as a communication tool with parents. This also allows for points to be awarded to children. We have started a new initiative where 'points win prizes!' Children can build up the points that they have and use these to 'purchase' prizes. Prizes will range from pencils/rubbers to footballs/skipping ropes and may also include visits from an ice cream van etc. We award points for going above and beyond.

Exclusions

There have been no exclusions.

Racist/Homophobic Incidents

There have been no racist or homophobic incidents.

Bullying

There have been no cases of bullying.

Safeguarding

In January, a school safeguarding audit was carried out. This was then inspected by Clennell Education Solutions and an action plan was drawn up. I have met with Danielle Towers to review the audit and action plan.

- All policies are up to date and correct
- All staff in school have up to date safeguarding training. Bitesize training is now a regular feature in staff meetings and we have covered Child on Child Abuse, Emotional Abuse and County Lines.
- Danielle Towers has had specific Safeguarding Governor training. 17.2.23
- A detailed induction pack has been made for new staff.
- We now have four DSLs in school. (Mr Hodgson, Mr McConville, Miss Gray, Mrs Pirie)
- One child in Nursery was subject to a child protection plan. This has been reduced to a child in need plan.
- One child in Key Stage Two was subject to a child in need plan but this is no longer in place.
- One child in Key Stage One who has ongoing involvement with various agencies. They are thriving and current plans are working well.
- We have supported three families with Early help referrals who are engaging and keen for support. We encouraged two other families to engage with Early help but they have refused the support.
- We have three previously looked after children on roll but no currently looked after children.
- I have been in contact with the MASH team at Northumberland County Council with concerns regarding one child who we are continuing to monitor.
- All safeguarding is logged on CPOMS.
- As a school we use SENSO to monitor all online activity. This sends weekly reports to me but also instant emails for any inappropriate online activity.
- A safeguarding element is included in every newsletter.

Teaching and learning

Following on from the success of the subject lead presentations for governors in Autumn, I would like to repeat this in Summer term to enable you to see the developments in the curriculum. Subject leaders have given a brief update about their subjects:

Maths

Progress has continued with maths this term, Monitoring has continued weekly, where the books are showing improvement with particularly strong practice in places. We have investigated the introduction of Big Maths as a potential scheme of work to support with delivery of maths next year. We have continued with our work with NCETM mastery Teacher Research Group. We have been supported in preparing staff meetings on representations and use of key vocabulary in Maths. We will be hosting the Teacher Research Group at the end of this term or the start of the

Summer Term. We are using our tough ten time to focus exclusively on times tables to give this the necessary focus. Teachers in EYFS and KS1 have also continued their training from the Great North Maths Hub to support with their delivery of the Mastering Number sessions which form the basis of maths lessons in Reception and as an additional afternoon session in KS1.

Dan McConville – Maths Lead

English

Changes to reading and writing have been implemented from January following trials in years 4 and 6. Reading now allows for greater depth into a novel and further practise of reading skills through questioning as they read as well as written or practical activities. New and varied texts are still accessed through writing and a “cold comprehension” every 2 weeks. Learning walks show staff adapting to this and I'm working with some teachers to refine practice. Staff have been positive about the novels chosen and children enjoy the books and daily lessons too. For writing, the “Ellington Writing Journey” remains in place and is being embedded with staff through monitoring and feedback with joint planning hopefully taking place soon with those staff who require it. Writing is strong in KS1 which indicates good prospects for the children as they move through school. KS2 are still filling writing gaps from Covid but increased opportunities to write at length are allowing them to develop.

All staff have received RWI training and Ruth Miskin advisors are working with myself and the phonics team to continue progressing. The majority of staff involved are confident and progress is generally good. Reception have made a strong start and we have increasing numbers of children in Y2 coming off phonics and starting comprehension. Y1 will be receiving fast track interventions daily as a priority to improve results.

Claire Sanders – English Lead

Science

Subject monitoring in science has shown that science is being taught regularly across school. Teachers are making lessons engaging for the children. Books seen were well presented and respected. Lessons now begin with a 'knowledge check' and end with a 'lock it in task'. It has emerged that 'working scientifically' is an area for development. Training has been provided and LG. We have also enrolled in the 'Primary Science Quality Mark' which we will complete over the next 18 months. This will provide us with training, resources and a network of support from a central hub. We will be working towards an accreditation. British Science week is approaching at the time of writing and this will be celebrated in school using this year's theme 'connections'. Finally, the science page on the school website has been developed to showcase the science curriculum at Ellington.

Louise Gray – Science Lead

RE

The Northumberland Syllabus is being followed allowing for a deeper understanding of Christianity and a variety of religions. Generally, the children speak highly of RE but more work is needed on distinguishing the religions from one another as they can't always articulate the exact religion they've been looking at. RE is being taught more regularly but more so in some year groups than others. I have sent out a staff voice survey about RE to find out what staff would like more support with and information about to ensure it goes ahead according to statutory requirements.

Claire Sanders – RE Lead

PE

At Ellington Primary School, the aim of our PE curriculum is to provide an excellent physical education programme for our children to enjoy. A new long-term plan has been introduced this year where the objectives show clear progression throughout each year to ensure that throughout their primary school journey, children will develop, challenge and enhance their skills and attributes. The curriculum programme provides a progressive plan throughout each year group, enabling children to improve their knowledge, confidence and skills across all areas of various sporting activities. We encourage children to adopt a healthy active lifestyle, discover their talents and have a life-long love for various sports and activities. Our six school curriculum drivers will positively encourage children to respect, trust and work hard together as a team. Through the specialist PE teacher, the use of external sports staff and the development of the school staff, we ensure PE is delivered structurally and in line with the National Curriculum, resulting in an effective curriculum implementation. We will continue to innovate and adapt how Physical Education, Physical Activity and Mental Health and Well-being will be delivered at Ellington Primary School. We were awarded Silver in the school games mark for our commitment to PE.

Stuart Todd – PE Lead

Art and Design

When carrying out monitoring throughout the school, I reviewed children's sketchbooks, conducted pupil voice interviews and monitored Kapow planning for each year group as well as speaking to teachers. Teachers said that they enjoyed teaching art using Kapow as each lesson plan is very detailed, showing the different steps to the lesson, as well as videos that teachers can watch prior to teaching the lesson. When speaking to children about art, the feedback was very positive and the children in each year group could tell me exactly what they were doing in art and used some key art vocabulary.

Pupil voice:

"I like doing frottage where you rip things up and make a big picture out of it."

"I think that art is a way of relaxing yourself."

“People with less confidence can do art because there is no right or wrong way.”

“Art is a way to express your feelings through drawing and colouring.”

We currently follow the original Kapow art planning, however they have recently revised this. We will follow the revised scheme from September 2023. The revised scheme has clear progression of skills from Reception to year 6.

Going forward, I would like to plan a whole school art day, where each class will focus on a specific artist.

Jade Cook – Art and Design Lead

Computing

Since September, year 1 to year 6 have implemented the Teach Computing curriculum from the NCCE on a weekly basis in their classes. The first week of every half term is spent focusing on Online Safety using resources from Project Evolve. Online Safety is one area that I feel very positive about, as the children now discuss it on a half termly basis, as well as sometimes covering it through work in PSHE and when I completed pupil voice surveys in term 1, it was something that many of the children were able to talk about from their computing lessons confidently. We also took part in ‘Safer Internet Day’ in February, with a whole school assembly and a special homework task to encourage engagement from parents. During that week, I also sent information and links to parents in the form of a Padlet which I hope to keep updated as I receive further online safety information.

Rachel Richardson – Computing Lead

Music

The children have a positive attitude towards music at school. They enjoy the lessons that come from the Charanga scheme on the whole, and children who take part in the lessons from the external tutor who comes into school each week are very enthusiastic about these sessions. Year 4, who have been learning cornets, and the year 5 brass miniband got the opportunity to rehearse and perform at the Sage, Gateshead in November which was a fabulous day and we were very proud of the children who took part. The children also take part in whole school singing during assemblies and have enjoyed taking part in performances, singing at Christmas and Harvest celebrations. We have been awarded the Music Mark Award for our commitment to Music!

Rachel Richardson – Music Lead

PSHE

Since September 2022 we have introduced the Kapow scheme of learning. Since introducing this scheme. Teachers are appreciative to have a progressive programme to follow which ensures that PSHE is structured with common, school wide themes which each year group follows. Previously, PSHE has not been given a significant focus in school. However, after monitoring whole School feedback was given and areas of development shared. It was made explicit that PSHE is non-negotiable and must be taught for one hour per week. A detailed letter was sent to all parents sharing our PSHE and RSE curriculums, inviting questions should any parents/carers have any. Monitoring is ongoing and a new whole school book look and pupil voice is taking place 08/03/23.

Samantha Horsley – PSHE Lead

History

History monitoring shows that coverage is good and lessons are engaging. Lessons use 'knowledge checks' and 'lock it in' tasks. We have decided to adopt Kapow Primary's scheme of work for history as many of the units covered match. The aim of this is to support teachers in their planning and reduce workload. A whole school map, with links to units and curriculum enrichment, has been produced. The monitoring focus for this term is pupil voice.

Louise Gray – History Lead

Geography

Monitoring has shown that children have enjoyed geography and have a better understanding of exactly what geography is. Knowledge checks and lock it in tasks have been used well to retrieve prior learning and knowledge, aiding long-term memory.

As with History, we have decided to adopt Kapow's scheme of work for Geography as many of the topics matched our current curriculum, aid our long-term memory aims and this will again support teacher workload.

Louise Gray – Geography Lead

French

In the absence of Miss Nicholson, I have been leading French. French has taken a bigger role in the curriculum this year with weekly lessons in years 3, 4, 5 and 6. We found that there were large gaps in French knowledge so decided to go back to basics for Years 3 and 4, ensuring the foundations are secure. We use Language Angels for our schemes of work and this provides staff with detailed long and medium term plans as well as individual lesson plans. This ensures consistency across Key Stage Two.

Kevin Hodgson – Acting French Lead

After school clubs

Gymnastics KS1 and KS2
Judo KS1 and KS2
Dodgeball KS2
Construction KS1

Multi-skills - Reception
TT Rockstars - KS2
Music - KS2

Parents and the Community

During December, we had a whole range of Christmas activities including film nights, nativity shows and carol concerts. They were all very well attended with the school hall packed out.

As mentioned above, we had a fantastic surprise assembly with parents/carers in February. We held a mental health workshop for parents/carers in school on 6/3/23 in conjunction with the Be You project.

Just prior to Christmas, we carried out some parent questionnaires which were very positive:

- ✓ 99% (78/79) of Parents/Carers surveyed say that their children feel **HAPPY** at Ellington Primary School.
- ✓ 100% of Parents/Carers surveyed say that their children feel **SAFE** at Ellington Primary School.
- ✓ 99% (78/79) of Parents/Carers surveyed say that **PUPILS ARE WELL BEHAVED** at Ellington Primary School.
- ✓ 100% of Parents/Carers surveyed say that Ellington Primary School has **HIGH EXPECTATIONS** for their children.
- ✓ 99% (78/79) of Parents/Carers surveyed say that Ellington Primary School supports their child's **WIDER PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**.
- ✓ 99% (78/79) of Parents/Carers surveyed say that they **WOULD RECOMMEND** Ellington Primary School to another parent.

We have some upcoming events with an Easter Egg hunt at the end of the term followed by a cake sale and we intend on inviting parents into reading/phonic lessons to enable them to see how we teach these in school.

Events:

School Council visiting Houses of Parliament	28th February
World Book Day	2nd March
Wind in the Willows	8th March
Parent Consultations	22nd March
Spring term reports	24th March
Year 4 Residential – Dukeshouse Wood	27th March
Easter Egg Hunt	31 st March
Easter Holidays	31st March
School closed – Teacher Training Day	17th April
Return to school	18th April
Bank Holiday	1st May

Bank holiday for the coronation of King Charles	8th May
Summer half term	26th May
Return to school	5th June
Year 6 Residential – Ford Castle	7th – 9th June
Sports Day	23rd June
Summer Fair	8th July
Summer term reports	14th July
Summer Holidays	21st July

Premises and Equipment

We have recently had a site inspection from Capita regarding a replacement roof. This work will be significant and may take up to twelve weeks to complete. It is much needed and will hopefully prevent the problems we have with leaks throughout the school. However, there may well be disruption for a period of time.

I am also hopeful of further work taking place during the summer holidays. Years 3 and 5 need to be painted and fitted with new carpets. I would like to have doors installed on several classrooms to replace the curtains currently used. I would like to develop a nurture area in KS2 by transforming the large KS2 cloakroom.

The most substantial work will be replacing the KS1 toilets which are in desperate need of an upgrade.

Governor Monitoring

The following monitoring has taken place since the last full governing body meeting in November:

Danielle Towers/Ian Redford – Curriculum Review with Louise Gray

Ian Redford – Health and Safety Review with Kevin Hodgson

Danielle Towers – Safeguarding Review with Kevin Hodgson

TBC

Chris Roberts/Barry Nelson – SEN & Vulnerable Groups

Claire Tait – Mental Health

Chris Curry – Pupil Premium