

Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors

Chair of Governors Impact Statement

March 2026

Introduction

The Governors are very keen to ensure that parents/carers are kept informed of the work of the board of governors. On the school website, under the **Governor's** banner, please take time to read through the **'Governance, Strategic Leadership and Planning Document - 2023.'** This sets the scene in relation to how the governing board meetings and committees are structured and organised, and the important work which is undertaken by the governing board.

SUMMARY: March Governance Update

1. The first half of the Spring term has been a very busy time at the school. The **Governors wished to thank** all involved in supporting the pupils throughout this time which is much appreciated.

2. The School Newsletter. This is produced and circulated weekly in order to keep staff, parents and carers and pupils up-to-date on school news and events.

The Governors believe that the school newsletter is a very detailed briefing note to parents/carers and the community on the excellent work which is undertaken at the school. There was lots of news reported in recent editions.

Recent news covered included the following areas:

- i) 'Value' for the second half of the Spring Term was 'Choices.'
- ii) What's happening last week/next week.
- iii) After School Clubs and lunches.
- iv) Advice on pupil attendance and reminders including the importance of every child attending every day.
- v) A report on the amazing events, visits and activities on offer.
- vi) Diary Dates for November and December and key events for each month.
- vii) WOW Team fund-raising achievements.
- viii) Congratulating and acknowledging pupils who have achieved success, both in and out of school.
- ix) Advice from NHS and others agencies on any key issues such as the importance of sleep.
- x) Any important notices and courses available for parents/carers via outside agencies.
- xi) Signposting clubs and organisations available to pupils during their leisure time.
- xii) Calendar of dates and what's happening nationally in the month of January and then in February and some positive thoughts for the week and for the months ahead.

3. Following the **Full Governors Meeting**, the Headteacher (HT) Louise George gave a written report to Governors. A temporary arrangement has been put in place to cover staff absence.

All was working well. Governors discussed the strategic leadership for the future and agreed next steps which would be actioned by the Chair and Vice Chair.

4. **Attendance** remains a real strength at 96.9%. Walford continues to perform above national figures, reflecting the strong commitment of families, pupils and staff in making every school day count. Persistent absence remains comparatively low and continues to be carefully monitored and supported by senior leaders.

5. **Safeguarding** remains strong. Governors were reassured that recent emergency drills, including an unplanned fire evacuation and a planned lockdown exercise, were managed calmly and safely, demonstrating the school's preparedness and the professionalism of all staff. Follow-up actions to improve communication systems are already being progressed.

6. The wider life of the school continues to flourish. Pupils have enjoyed **a rich range of experiences** including World Book Day, Safer Internet Day, class assemblies, sporting competitions, enrichment activities such as fishing and darts, charity events including Comic Relief, and inspiring visitors such as Bart Gee, whose message about turning disability into possibility was particularly powerful. These opportunities help pupils grow in confidence, character and aspiration.

7. A special mention must go to the **WOW Team** and School Council, whose fundraising efforts have been nothing short of outstanding. Through discos, raffles, bingo and reading initiatives, pupils have demonstrated great leadership, teamwork and community spirit while raising significant funds to support school projects. Their planned summer programme promises even more opportunities for the school community to come together.

8. Governors also welcomed the completion of the recent **Inclusion Review** led by Diana Pearce (SIP and Ofsted Inspector), which will help shape the school's next steps in ensuring every child feels supported, valued and able to thrive.

Overall, the position statement for March can be summarised as follows: Governors believe Walford continues to be a school with strong community values, caring relationships, high expectations and a rich learning experience for all children. We thank staff, parents/carers, volunteers and, most importantly, the wonderful pupils for all they contribute to make Walford such a special place to learn and grow.

8. All was working well as far as the **School Nursery** was concerned. Funding was reported as a separate budget heading. The budget, numbers of pupils and staffing are also being reviewed regularly.

9. **Special Educational Needs (SEND)**: The SEND Link Governor will arrange to meet with the HT/SENDCo in the Spring Term.

10. **Report on Pupil Premium**: All working well – each pupil has an individual record which outlines the support provided through pupil premium. The Link Governor for pupil premium will meet with the HT/DHT to discuss this further in the Spring Term.

11. **Governor Training & Development** was discussed. Information and briefings from the Local Authority, Herefordshire Governor's Association, National Governance Association (NGA) and its magazine / weekly briefings provide updated information. The Clerk also advises governors of any local training courses available. In addition, there is 'bite size' training available from the NGA. New NGA Governor and Chair of Governor Handbooks will be circulated when available, providing a useful update for the chair, the clerk and all governors. All governors have received updated information on Keeping Children Safe in Education (DFE

Guidance), and would also complete the NGA Module on Safeguarding. Governor membership and succession planning will be discussed at the Governor Review in the Summer Term.

12. Governors 2026 / 2027: Governors reviewed their programmes of work via each committee. Three new members of the school community were welcomed to the Governors Meeting as Associate Governors. Each was able to bring specific skills which would help and support the Governing Board in the future and were assigned to committees. Overall, governors concluded that Walford continues to demonstrate very strong leadership, excellent pupil outcomes, secure safeguarding practice and prudent financial management, underpinned by a committed staff team and positive relationships with pupils and families.

13. Governors continue to act as a **‘Critical friend’** to the school. At each meeting governors offer appropriate ‘support and challenge’ and make recommendations and decisions as required. There is a professional working relationship between the school and governors/governance.

14. The Chair thanked **Gwyneth Gill, Clerk to Governors**, for ably putting together all of the relevant paperwork in readiness for the meeting and for the support at the various committee meetings which was much appreciated.

15. The Chair thanked all Governors - **Emma P, Charlie, Eve, Kate M, Emily, Emma H, George, Kate L, Emma M, Luke and Louise** for their input and support which was much appreciated.

16. The Chair finally thanked the Senior Leaders and **‘Team Walford’** for their superb work, dedication and commitment. This had been a busy term and end of year, with so much on offer for all pupils and their families. Governors wished to thank the team for their excellent work in supporting pupils and for all that they do to enhance, enrich and support pupil’s education, on a daily basis. The **Headteacher, Louise George** has been inspirational in relation to the leadership evidenced.

Particular **thanks** were also addressed to **Emma Hanham** (Deputy Headteacher), for her valuable input, **Fiona Baker** (Financial Lead) for managing both the main school and Nursery budget superbly well, **Kate Nicholls** and **Natalie Pegler** (Administrative Assistants) for their excellent efforts in supporting the work of the school and also, **Rory Jarrett** (new Site Manager).

The Governors believe that the school programme and all that has been organised for pupils throughout the term and year has truly evidenced and supported the key message from the school’s mission statement:

‘Learning and Enjoyment... Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Day!’

Thank you for taking the time to read this report – it is much appreciated.

Paul Deneen OBE JP DL

Chair of the Board of Governors

31.3.2026