

Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors

Chair of Governors Impact Statement

November / December 2025

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 - Governance Update - November / December

1. The second half of the Autumn 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) 'Values' for the second half of the Autumn Term were -'Open Mindedness', 'Respect' and 'Thoughtfulness'.
- 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.
- vi) Diary Dates for November and December and the key events for each month.
- vii) WOW Team Fund-Raising
- viii) Congratulating and recognising pupils who have achieved success, in and out of school.
- ix) Advice from NHS and others agencies on any key issues such as 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 November and then in December and some positive thoughts for the week and for the months ahead.

3. The Headteacher (HT) has reviewed Site Security and Emergency Planning Arrangements. All is now in place in relation to CCTV and site security, and all is working well. New notices had been placed on the school fence to make it clear that the school field is private property. Health and safety and emergency planning and procedures were discussed by the Governors and plans would be actioned by HT in the Spring Term.

4. Autumn Term 2 - As Chair of Governors, I aim to keep in regular contact with the Headteacher throughout the term to discuss key issues and support school activities and events. I made a number of visits in November and December and these are commented upon in this report. This included a very successful executive breakfast meeting with the WOW Team.

I also passed on some information about some free trees being available for the school from the Woodland Trust, and I understand that this has been followed up, which is great.

At the beginning of November, it was excellent to see the work undertaken regarding the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal and Year 6 were involved in selling the poppies and reflector keyrings, wristbands, etc.

There was also a visit by the Police to speak with the pupils in Nursery, EYFS and Key Stage 1, and this was very well received, particularly as they were able to sit in the police car and hear the sirens!

I attended the Christmas Market and the WOW Team's Christmas Fayre, as well as the School's Carol Service - all were brilliant!

5. Headteacher Report and Update on News/Activities/Events/WOW Team

- i) It had been a very successful Autumn Term.
- ii) Walford had featured in The Times Best Schools 2026, ranked 27th nationally and 2nd in the West Midlands – a truly outstanding accolade for the whole school community. This impressive news had been featured in The Hereford Times and the Ross Gazette.
- iii) Out of tens of thousands of children, five pupils (2 EAL and 2 SEND) have progressed to the next round of the BBC 500 Words Competition.
- iv) Following a very successful Summer Term (£2,000 raised), the WOW Team had been busy organising Christmas fundraising activities.
- v) Miss Hale (Forest School Leader) had made an impressive start to her Forest School leadership, organising this year's Christmas Tree for St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival. A range of beautiful wooden tree decorations have been handmade by pupils in Year R and Year 6, who have used a variety of tools (saws, drills, etc.).

6. Chair and Vice Chair of Governors Meeting with the HT and the WOW Team -

Executive Breakfast – The Chair, Vice Chair and HT took the opportunity of meeting with the WOW Team for breakfast with croissants, waffles and juice. It allowed us to pass on our very grateful thanks to all involved in the excellent fundraising at the school. We also chatted to the pupils about British Values and were most impressed with their thoughts, knowledge and understanding. We had a general chat about their thoughts about the school. All contributions were very positive, and it was a huge pleasure meeting the team.

7. School Development Plan - The Chair, Vice Chair of Governors, HT and DHT will monitor this plan which is in line with the new Ofsted Framework. The group will consider each area of activity and RAG rate progress.

In addition, the group will also review the Risk Assessment Plan for the school. All will be reported to the Governors.

8. Special Meeting of the Governors in November as a Joint Pupil's, Personnel, and Community and School Business Committee Governors met with the HT to review the budget and also consider any updates regarding teacher performance reviews. Support Staff performance reviews would take place in the Spring Term. Copies of the reports made available to the Governor Committees would be circulated to all Governors.

9. Safeguarding and GDPR

Training slides would be circulated to all Governors. National Governance Association Training materials on safeguarding is excellent and all Governors would complete the training and provide their Certificate of completion before the next meeting. The Vice Chair of Governors briefed the meeting on the Single Central Record and its importance. This information was well received by Governors.

10. End of Term Arrangements

The WOW team were busy preparing for the next fundraising event which would be the School's Christmas Market being held at the end of term. The school had also been involved in a Christmas Jumper Day, a Children's Christmas Fayre, Santa's Grotto, Christmas Show at Savoy Theatre, Year 5 and 6 Carol Service, Nursery, EYFS and KS1 Christmas Concert, Christmas Lunch and whole school Christmas parties. I was most fortunate to be able to attend the Year 5 and 6 Carol Service at Walford Church. The entire event was organised with pupil's maximum involvement, and the contributions, both speaking and musically, was excellent and enjoyed by all.

11. The School Website - This was up to date, and the Chair will review contents and streamlining the information in the new year.

12. Pupil's Personnel and Community - Report from Paul Deneen - December Update:

- i) HT reported on key issues regarding staffing.
- ii) Pupil attendance was excellent at 98%.
- iii) All policies were up-to-date.
- iv) Safeguarding and Prevent training has been completed by staff.

v) Equalities issues were discussed, no issues of concern were raised.

vi) Both the school and the school nursery are working well.

13. School Business Committee - Report from Charlie Lawson - December Update:

i) The school budget was reviewed, and there were no issues of concern raised. Fiona (Strategic Lead) was thanked for her excellent update.

ii) All school policies were up-to-date.

iii) The school nursery budget was also reviewed, and no issues of concern were raised.

iv) New guidance on funding for school nurseries from the DfE, the implications of which are being considered at the present time. A letter explaining the new arrangements for parents / carers had been drafted and this was approved by Governors.

v) Health and Safety and Emergency Planning was discussed and plans would be actioned in the Spring Term.

14. Standards Teaching and Learning Committee - Report from Emma Parkes - December Update:-

i) There were no issues of concern raised regarding pupil performance across all age groups/classes. Pupils and staff were positive about the school. A recent meeting had been held and the Chair of the Committee had noted and celebrated the quality of knowledge and understanding of Subject Leaders, commenting on the high levels of consistency across the school. She also noted how pleasing it was to see and observe how the individual staff had evidenced excellent progress and increased confidence in relation to each of the subject areas.

ii) A terrific and wide range of activities and educational visits had taken place, and all were enjoyed by all.

iii) British Values continues to be embedded into the curriculum.

iv) All policies were up-to-date.

15. 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. The HT and DHT are reviewing the new guidance on nursery funding (see iv) above).

16. Special Educational Needs - SEND - The SEND Link Governor will arrange to meet with the HT/SENDCo in the Spring Term.

17. Report on Pupil Premium - All was working well and 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.

18. Report of Health & Safety and Site Management - I remain grateful to the HT, Mrs Nicholls in the front office and Mr Sherwood as Site Manager for their work and support of this area of activity which is much appreciated.

19. 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 completed annual Safeguarding training. Governor membership and succession planning will be discussed at the Governor Review in the Summer Term.

20. Governors 2025 / 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. Governors welcomed Beth Moss, Kate Ledger and Luke Mayo to the team. Their appointment as Associate Governors would be for an initial 12 months which would be reviewed in December 2026.

21. Celebrating Walford's Nursery and Primary School - As mentioned earlier, Walford was featured in the Times Best Schools 2026, ranked 27th nationally and 2nd in the West Midlands. This is a wonderful accolade for the whole school community to celebrate. This impressive news was featured in the Ross Gazette and the Hereford Times. In addition, out of tens of thousands of children, five pupils (2 EAL and 2 SEND) have progressed to the next round of the BBC 500 Words Competition. Very well done to all concerned!

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. 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, **Dan Sherwood** (Site Manager) for his support.

The Governors believe that the school programme and all that has been organised for pupils throughout the term/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

31.12.2025