

Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors

Chair of Governors Impact Statement

September / October 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 - September / October

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

2. The School Newsletter - This is produced and circulated weekly in order to keep staff, parents, 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 has been lots of news reported in recent editions.

Recent news included the following areas:-

- i) 'Value' for the Autumn Term is 'Rights and Responsibilities.'
- 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 including information on Walford University awards and various levels.
- vi) Diary Dates for September and October and the key events for each month.
- vii) WOW Team fund-raising achievements.
- viii) Congratulating and recognising pupils who have achieved success, both in and out of school.
- ix) Advice from the NHS and other agencies on a variety of key issues such as the importance of sleep.
- x) Important notices and courses available for parents/carers provided 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 June and also in July, including some positive thoughts for the week/month ahead.

3. The 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.

4. Beginning of the Autumn Term - 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. In early September, I visited the school on the second day of term, which was a staff training day. I visited each class, which had been prepared well for the new academic year, and wished each member of staff all the best for the forthcoming year. I commented to the HT on the high quality presentation of the school, its attractive learning displays and how it felt so very welcoming.

5. Programme of Events - The wide range of school activities and events regularly feature in each of weekly Newsletters. This half term, there has been numerous 'Buddy Time' opportunities, Kindness and Respect Awards, the School Photographer, Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning, Walford Hedgehog Day, Forest School, Share Your Talent Trombone Assembly, National Coding week, Open the Book Assembly, European Day of Languages, Thank You Awards, World Mental Health Day, Y1/Y2 Techniquet Visit, Congratulations Awards and an exciting 'Light Up Walford' Family Pumpkin Trail.

6. The HT briefed Governors on the work of the **WOW Team** (Walford-on-Wye), ably led by our pupils in Year 6 and members of the School Council, where pupils have the opportunity to put forward their ideas and thoughts regarding potential fundraising projects. This involvement also allows all of our pupils to develop various new skills and life experiences, including improved communication and numeracy skills.

The WOW Team had also taken the opportunity to fund raise at the Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning and Walford Hedgehog Day, realising £560. In addition, the Year 6 Auction raised a further £170 which was impressive! I also visited the school Family Pumpkin Trail which was clearly a very popular event and very well supported by parents/carers, families and pupils. Very well done to all involved and huge congratulations to the WOW Team for raising an amazing £705.30!

After the half term break, I will arrange to meet with the Year 6 WoW Team/School Council Representatives in order to report on 'Pupil Voice' and to listen to their thoughts and ideas about how we might further improve.

7. The Governors held a meeting on **Wednesday, 9th October**. The Governor's considered an up-to-date report from the HT on key areas of activity. The Chair placed on record his thanks to the HT, DHT and to all Governors for their input and support at each committee. He also thanked Emma Parkes, Charlie Lawson and Emily Crewe for their chairing of the committees. The Governors also appointed three new Associate Governors for an initial period of one year. Additionally, all will bring a wealth of experience through their work, and will be able to make a valued and valuable contribution to the Governing Board. We welcome Kate Ledger, Beth

Moss and Luke Mayo as Associate Governors, and will arrange induction training and briefings for them all this term.

Pupil's Personnel and Community - Report from Paul Deneen

- i) The HT reported that there was a full staff complement for September. No concerns or issues were raised.
- ii) Pupil attendance is excellent at 98%. The HT will continue to liaise with parents/carers over any issues of concern. Governors believe that it is vitally important that parents/carers support their children being at school everyday.
- iii) All policies were up-to-date.
- iv) Safeguarding and Prevent training all completed for staff.
- v) Equalities issues were discussed, no issues of concern were raised.
- vi) Both the school and the nursery are working well.
- vii) The Staff Survey has been completed. Feedback was very positive.
- vii) Dates for meetings were agreed for the year.

School Business Committee - Report from Charlie Lawson

- i) The school budget was reviewed, and there were no issues of concern raised.
- 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 will be coming into force from the DfE, the implications of which are being considered at the present time.
- v) Dates for meetings of the committee were agreed for the year.

Standards Teaching and Learning Committee - Report from Emma Parkes

- I) Draft Year 6 and other cohort results had been received by the school and were being reviewed. They appeared to be most pleasing and most encouraging. More details to follow once all of the information and comparative national data has been received.
- ii) There were no issues of concern raised regarding pupil performance across all age groups/classes. Pupils and staff were positive about the school, and no concerns or issues were raised.
- iii) A terrific and wide range of activities and educational visits had taken place, and enjoyed by all.
- iv) British Values continues to be embedded into the curriculum.
- v) All policies were up-to-date.

vi) Dates for the committee were agreed for the year.

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 arrangements are also being reviewed regularly. The HT and DHT are reviewing the new guidance on nursery funding for the September intake. More information to follow once the guidance has been considered.

9. The Vice Chair of Governors reviewed the **Safeguarding, GDPR and School Development Plan** arrangements with the HT. No issues of concern were raised. The SEND Governor will arrange to meet with the HT/SENDCo in the Spring Term. GDPR will be reviewed. The Strategic Group of Chair/Vice Chair/HT and DHT would agree the format and arrangements regarding updating the School Development Plan which will be reported back to Governors at a future meeting.

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

11. 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.

12. Thank You Assembly for Mrs Somers - School Improvement Adviser (SIP) - I was invited by the HT, along with the Vice Chair, to attend the school on the 23rd September, to meet with Mrs Somers to discuss the Headteacher's performance for 2024/25, and agree targets for 2025/26. After many years being involved in education, Mrs Somers decided to retire as the SIP and as an Ofsted Inspector. Mrs Somers has given wonderful service to the school. Her advice has been invaluable and greatly assisted the school on its journey to receiving the 'outstanding in all areas' grade by Ofsted in 2024. Year 6 pupils organised a great 'Thank You' Assembly, and over a light sandwich lunch, some very talented musicians and singers performed wonderful musical pieces enjoyed by all.

17. 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.

18. Governors 2025 / 2026 - Governors reviewed their programmes of work via each committee. Governors completed a review via a **Governor Skills Audit** and were also able to comment about how we might improve governance for the future. The Clerk had prepared a briefing on the results for the Chair/Vice Chair and HT to consider.

19. 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 strong professional working relationship between the school and governors/governance.

20. 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.

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

22. 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 efforts in supporting the work of the school and also, **Dan Sherwood** (Site Manager) for his excellent support.

The Governors believe that the school programme and all that has been organised for pupils and families 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

31/10/2025