

Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors

Chair of Governors Impact Statement

June / July 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 – June / July

1. The Summer term has been a very busy time at the school. The **Governors wished to thank** all involved in supporting the pupils throughout the term 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.

Recent editions covered the following areas:-

- i) 'Value' for the Month of June - 'Love,' and for the month of July - 'Honesty.'
- 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 levels.
- vi) Diary Dates for June and July 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 June and then in July and some positive thoughts for the week and for the months ahead.

3. The HT has reviewed site security and emergency planning arrangements.
All is now in place in relation to CCTV and site security.

4. As Chair of Governors, I keep in regular contact with the Headteacher, visit the school to discuss key issues and support school activities and events. This half term, I visited the school to review Pupil Premium. I also reviewed our policies and procedures regarding Health & Safety, Wellbeing and Site Management Security. More details are included below.

5. Programme of Events - The school programme of activities and involvement was superb. An amazing amount of activities and support for Year 6 was evidenced. The Y3/Y4 'Big Sleep-over' was a great success as was the trip to Dan-yr-Ogof caves. The Year 6 Breakfast, funded by the WOW Team, was enjoyed by all. I have commented on further activities below.

6. The HT briefed governors on the **WOW Team** (Walford-on-Wye), led by our School Council, with pupils being able to put forward their ideas and thoughts regarding fundraising, ably assisted by stakeholders. This also allows all of our pupils to develop various new skills and life experiences, including improved communication and numeracy skills. Their fund raising efforts throughout the year has quite simply been amazing! At this year's Summer Fayre, over £1,700 was raised. Well done to all involved!

7. The Governors held a meeting on **Wednesday 9th July**. The Governor's considered an up-to-date report from the Headteacher 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.

School Business Committee - Report from Paul Deneen

- 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.

Standards Teaching and Learning Committee - Report from Emma Parkes

- i) Draft Year 6 and other results had been received by the school and were being reviewed. They appeared to be 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 all were enjoyed by all.
- iv) British Values work continues to be embedded into the curriculum.
- v) All policies were up-to-date.
- vi) Pupil attendance was at 97% compared to national figure of 94.82%.

Pupil's Personnel and Community - Report from Paul Deneen

- i) All staffing issues were in hand by HT and there was a full staff complement for September. No concerns were raised.
- ii) Pupil attendance is excellent. 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 are up-to-date.
- iv) Safeguarding training all completed.
- v) Equalities issues were discussed, no issues of concern were raised.

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. The HT and DHT are reviewing the new guidance on nursery funding for the September intake.

9. The Vice Chair of Governors reviewed the **Safeguarding and GDPR** arrangements with the HT. No issues of concern were raised.

10. Report on Pupil Premium - I visited the school to review the funding and its allocation at the school. I received a detailed report which included how much funding was made available to support individual pupils. I also looked at pupil performance and attendance. No issues of concern were evidenced. I was impressed with the level of detail provided and am grateful to the HT and DHT for their work in providing this report.

11. Report of Health & Safety and Site Management - I visited the school and reviewed key areas of activity. I completed a report for the HT. I was grateful to Mrs Nicholls in the front office, Mr Sherwood as Site Manager for their work and support of this area of activity, and to the HT for her follow up actions which is much appreciated.

12. Walford University Graduation - I was invited by the HT to attend the school in order to make the Walford University presentations to the pupils. It was such a wonderful opportunity to meet with and congratulate pupils on their achievements – a huge well done to all concerned.

13. The Thank You Assembly was very well organised, and it was such a pleasure to be involved. There were a number of people present who were able to be thanked and, al-in-all, it was a lovely occasion.

14. The Year 6 Production of The Jungle Book was outstanding. Huge thanks to all involved. It was wonderful to see how the pupils had grown and progressed since their start in early years. Each performance was enjoyed by all and was simply amazing!

15. The Summer Fayre was a great success and once again, the **WOW team** had been incredibly busy with their fundraising efforts. The new model of putting the pupils at the heart of their fundraising efforts has clearly been a great success! Well done to all involved.

16. The Year 6 Leavers' Assembly was an important 'rite of passage,' for every pupil. They will all remember happy times at wonderful Walford, and I thank everyone for their contribution. I also saw many of the pupils at the Year 6 Transition day at John Kyrle High School – it was pleasing to note that all were looking forward to the next stage/phase of their education.

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.

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 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 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, thanks **Dan Sherwood** (Site Manager) for his excellent 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

20.07.2025