

Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors
Chair of Governors Impact Statement
May 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 - May

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

In the recent edition, it covered the following areas:-

- i) The 'Value' for the Month of May - 'Joy.'
- 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 school every day.
- v) Events, visits and activities
- vi) WOW Team Fund-Raising
- vii) Advice from NHS and others on any key issues such as importance of sleep.
- viii) Diary Dates for each term including for May - VE Day 80 Years and the Computing Festival of Learning (21st May at 2pm)
- ix) Congratulating pupils who have achieved success, in and out of school.
- 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, what's happening nationally in the month of May and some thoughts for the week and for the month.

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 contact with the Headteacher and visit the school to discuss key issues and also to support school activities and events. This half term, I visited the school to review Pupil Premium. In addition, I also reviewed our policies and procedures regarding health, safety and wellbeing and site management security. I will produce a report for the next governor's meeting in July.

5. VE Day - 80 Years

The school programme of activities and involvement was superb. The programme included a guest wartime soldier visitor experience. So war time rations, life during the war, evacuees and the second world war in general were all discussed. Pupils attended school wearing red, white and blue outfits. The day was enjoyed by all. A great celebration and video, containing great photographs, was shared in the newsletter for the whole school community to enjoy.

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 ideas. The WOW Team puts pupils at the forefront, whilst promoting a wide range of new skills and life experiences, including improved communication and numeracy skills.

7. The Governors held a Meeting on **Wednesday 14th May 2025**. The Governor's considered an update 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 these committees. He also thanked Emma (Parkes) and Charlie/Emily for their chairing of the committees. The main item on the agenda for the meeting was to approve the school and Nursery budget.

School Business Committee - Report from Emily (Vice Chair of committee):-

- i) The school budget was reviewed, and there were no issues of concern raised. The Governors had received detailed information about the school budget for 2025/2026. The pupil numbers were positive. The final budget was approved unanimously.
- ii) All school policies were up to date.
- iii) The school nursery budget was reviewed, and no issues of concern were raised. The final budget for 2025/2026 was approved unanimously.
- iv) New DfE guidance on funding for school nurseries will be coming into force shortly, and this will be considered by leaders in the summer term.

Standards Teaching and Learning Committee - Report from Emma (Parkes):-

- i) There were no issues of concern raised regarding pupil performance across all ages, groups and classes. Pupils and staff were positive about the school, and no concerns or issues were raised.
- ii) A wide range of activities and educational visits had taken place, and enjoyed by all.
- iii) British Values work continues to be embedded into the curriculum.
- iv) All policies were up to date.
- v) Pupil attendance was at 97% compared to national figure of 94.82%.

Pupil's Personnel and Community - Report from Paul:-

- i) All staffing issues were in hand by HT. Plans were in place to address key issues, and all were supported by the governors. Staff were positive about the school, and no concerns were raised.
- ii) There were no issues of concern regarding pupil attendance. 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 every day.
- iii) All policies are up to date.
- iv) Safeguarding training all completed.
- v) Equalities issues were discussed, and there were no issues of concern raised.

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

9. The Vice Chair of Governors will be reviewing **Safeguarding and GDPR** arrangements with the HT. She will update the governors on her findings. No issues of concern were raised.

10. Kate, the SEND Governor, had reviewed the **SEND** provision and offer, including EHCPs. A detailed report had been provided and no issues of concern were raised. The HT and DHT were congratulated on their continued support for SEND pupils.

11. Governor Training and 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.

12. Governors 2025/2026 - Governors will review their programmes of work via each committee. In the summer term, a training and development event for all governors will consider this information.

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

14. The Chair thanked Gwyneth, the **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 the **Governors** - Emma P, Charlie, Emily, Emma H, Eve, George, Louise, Fiona and Kate 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 so far, with so much on offer for all pupils and 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 and to Fiona (Financial Lead), Kate and Natalie, Administrative Assistants for their superb efforts in supporting the work of the school.

The Governors believe that the school programme and all that has been arranged and organised for pupils throughout the term has 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 - much appreciated.

Paul Deneen OBE JP DL

Chair of the Board of Governors

14.05.2025