

Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors
Chair of Governors Impact Statement
Wednesday 2nd April 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 - March/April

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 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 March was 'Teamwork.'
- 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 your child attending school every day.
- v) Events, visits and activities
- vi) WOW Team Fund-Raising
- vii) Diary Dates for each term
- viii) Congratulating pupils who have achieved success, in and out of school.
- ix) Any important notices and courses available for parents/carers via outside agencies.
- x) Signposting clubs and organisations available to pupils during their leisure time.
- xi) Calendar of dates and what's happening nationally in the months of March and April and some thoughts for the week.

3. The Headteacher 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 visited the school after half-term break and spent time chatting with the HT, staff and pupils. A summary of the discussion is as follows:-

- i) The HT updated me on the current staffing situation, and plans in place to address key issues. All staff were positive about the school, and no concerns were raised.
- ii) There were no issues of concern regarding the school budget and school fund - all was looking positive. The School's Financial Value Statement (SFVS) was drafted and considered by the School Business Committee. The budget would be considered at the full governors meeting in April and final approval given. The SFVS is a very useful assurance mechanism for the governors. It ensures that the school achieved a very good level of financial health/resource management. There were six key

areas of activity for reporting by the governors which includes sections on: Governance; School's Strategy; Setting the Annual Budget; Staffing; Value for Money and Protecting Public Money. It was thought to be useful to discuss key areas and provide relevant detailed evidence.

iii) Matters regarding pupil attendance were discussed fully and termly reports from the local authority School's Attendance Officer considered. The HT will continue to liaise with parents/carers over any attendance issues of concern.

Governors believe that it is vitally important that parents/carers support their children being at school every day.

iv) 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.

v) The school will consider major national events, such as VE Day, Herefordshire History Week, and consider next steps.

5. Visit to the school by the High Sheriff of Herefordshire - Mrs Pat Churchward

We were delighted to welcome the High Sheriff of Herefordshire, Mrs Pat Churchward, to the school. She joined Gerry Smith JP, former Chair of Governors and the Smith family in order to officially open '**The Smith Family Creative Studio**'. It was a most enjoyable event and a special assembly was organised by Year 6 to recognise and celebrate the contribution of the Smith family to Walford school.

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 celebrations and fundraising opportunities. Year 6 created an impressive Dragon's Den themed film, charting their exciting first year, developing business skills, entrepreneurship talents and creativity. This film can be enjoyed by the school community on the school's website.

7. A meeting of the Full Governing Body was held on Wednesday 2nd April.

The Governor's considered detailed reports from the Headteacher which had been provided for each of the committees held this term. 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 for chairing the committees.

School Business Committee - Report from Charlie:

i) The school budget was reviewed, and there were no issues of concern raised.

ii) The School Financial Value Standard document - In April at the Full Governor's Meeting and after relevant discussion, the document was unanimously approved. The Chair thanked Charlie, the HT, DHT, the Strategic Financial Lead and the Admin Team for their valuable input regarding the completion of the SFVS document.

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

iv) New playground equipment has arrived and has been well received by pupils.

v) The Chair will review Pupil Premium and undertake a Health and Safety audit check after Easter.

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

vi) New guidance on funding for school nurseries will be coming into force from the DfE and this will be considered in the summer term.

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

- i) The HT reported that there had been a SEND 'deep dive', conducted by Sarah Somers (School Improvement Adviser), a report of which would be made available shortly.
- ii) A briefing took place on the Clicker App and on Widget software.
- iii) In order to share the work of the school with the wider community, Instagram would be explored as an alternative to Twitter/X.
- iv) The Governors would review and amend the school day to ensure compliance with DfE guidance, though this would not impact on the core school day.
- v) Presentations by Subject Leaders had taken place on computing, history, maths, writing and PE.
- vi) A wide range of activities and educational visits had taken place, including a residential visit, enjoyed by all.
- vii) British Values work continues to be embedded into the curriculum.
- viii) All policies are up-to-date.
- ix) Pupil attendance was at 97% compared to national figure of 94.82%.

Pupils, Personnel and Community - Report from Paul:

- i) All staffing issues were in hand by HT.
- ii) All performance management would be completed by the end of term.
- iii) The training opportunities for staff was exemplary and a wide range was on offer.
- iv) SEND was reviewed, and results of a pupil questionnaire were shared – this provided very positive feedback.
- v) All policies are up-to-date.
- vi) Safeguarding training all completed.
- vii) Equalities issues were discussed, no issues of concern were raised.
- viii) The WOW Team / Year 6 created an impressive Dragon's Den themed film, charting their exciting first year, developing business skills, entrepreneurship talents and creativity. This film can be enjoyed by the school community on the school's website.
- ix) HT updated the committee on pupil successes.
- x) Video of Walford's Got Talent and whole school Dance Showcase evidenced some superb pupil efforts.
- xi) Bingo night organised by Kelly Higgs (TA) alongside the WOW Team, had been a great success, raising over £1,000.

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 has reviewed **Safeguarding and GDPR** arrangements with the HT and updated the governors on her findings.

10. The SEND Governor and Chair will review the **SEND** provision, including EHCPs, alongside **Pupil Premium** early next term.

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, all provide updated information. The Clerk also advises governors of local training courses available. There is also 'bitesize' training available from the NGA. New NGA

Governor and Chair of Governor Handbooks will be circulated when available, providing a useful update for all governors and the clerk. 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 the **Clerk to Governors** for ably putting together all of the relevant paperwork in readiness for the meeting.

15. The Chair thanked the **Governors** 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 (Strategic 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
02.04.2025