

Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors
Chair of Governors Impact Statement
Wednesday February 5th 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 - January/February 2025

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. In the recent edition, it covered the following:

- i) The 'Value' for the Month: Perseverance
- ii) What's happening last week/next week - Year 6 Dodgeball, Kindness Award, Congratulations and Golden Ticket, Buddy Time, Year 5 Hands Up for the Planet Workshops and Number Day.
- iii) After School Clubs available
- iv) Safer Internet Day
- v) Events, visits and activities
- vi) WOW Team Fund-Raising
- vii) Advice on pupil attendance
- viii) Diary Dates for each term
- 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) Clubs and organisations available to pupils during their leisure time.
- xii) Calendar of dates and what's happening nationally in the month of January and some thoughts for the week.

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.

3. The HT has reviewed **site security and emergency planning arrangements**. The HT has taken advice for Herefordshire Council on all key issues. Following this input, an action plan was agreed by governors, and this would be implemented and actioned by the HT/school at the earliest opportunity. Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) at the school has been installed to improve site security and safeguarding. Governors will review relevant policies regarding the new security arrangements. Signage regarding CCTV is now in

place. All new policies will be available on the school website for parent/carer information. Arrangements will be compliant with all relevant DfE guidance.

4. As Chair of Governors, I visited the school at the beginning of the new term and spent time discussing the school with the HT, staff and pupils. A **Summary of the discussion** is as follows:

i) The HT updated me on the staffing situation, and plans were in place to address key issues. 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 is looking positive.

iii) There were no issues of concern regarding pupil attendance. 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.

iv) There were no issues of concern raised regarding pupil performance across all age groups/classes.

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

vi) 'Pupil Voice' is considered later in this report. I enjoyed an excellent meeting with the School Council.

vii) Site Management was discussed and there were updates on various issues.

viii) All policies and procedures are up-to-date.

ix) The High Sheriff of Herefordshire, Mrs Pat Churchward, has kindly agreed to visit the school and join Gerry Smith JP, former Chair of Governors and the Smith family in order to support the opening of the new 'Smith Creative Studio'.

5. The HT briefed governors on the revamped PTFA, now known as the **WOW Team** (Walford-on-Wye), led by our **School Council**, putting pupil's ideas and thoughts at the heart of fundraising. This allows all of our pupils to develop various new skills and life experiences, including improved communication and numeracy skills.

6. Meeting with the School Council - HT/Chair

i) As part of the engagement with pupils and 'Pupil Voice,' I visited the school and together with the HT we hosted an 'Executive Breakfast' of juice and croissants/pain au chocolat for the pupils. This was also an opportunity to say thank you from the School/Governors for their wonderful efforts.

ii) The WOW Team has been involved in agreeing a programme of activities via each year group, with volunteer support from parents, carers, staff and the wider community.

iii) Members of the School Council briefed me on their fundraising efforts last term and talked with great enthusiasm about the success of the **Pumpkin Trail**, particularly the soup, and how popular it had been. The **Harvest Festival** and the Auction of the Harvest Hampers had gone down really well with the children excited about their increased skills of persuasion. The School's **Christmas Fayre** had been a huge success and, once again, a raffle of the Christmas Hampers was a great success.

iv) The pupils shared their thoughts and ideas for future fund-raising events, as well as updating me on their thoughts on how the money raised might be spent regarding equipment and items for the school playground. These items would benefit all pupils at the school.

v) Both the HT and I were very impressed by the positive and enthusiastic approach from each of the pupils, with all contributing to the discussion.

7. The Governors held a Meeting of the Governors on Wednesday 5th February.

i) The Strategic Group of the Chair/Vice Chair and Chairs of each of the Committees (School Business Committee, Pupil, Personnel and Staffing Committee together with the Standards Teaching and Learning Committee) met before the main meeting to consider each of their key areas of activity which included policies and updates, and any issues of concern. No major issues were identified.

ii) At the Full Governors meeting the HT gave a verbal update on the school, pupil activities and performance. A terrific amount of work have been undertaken by staff to benefit the pupils.

Trips/visits have been arranged and have been a great success. There was an update on the School Development Plan, SEND, pupil premium, safeguarding and GDPR. Various policies were also tabled and were agreed by Governors. There was also an update on staffing and behavior. A new phone system will be installed over the half-term holiday.

iv) Committee meetings are in the diary, and there will be update reports available at future Governor meetings.

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. She updated the governors on her findings. No issues of concern were raised.

10. Sarah Somers (SIP), will review the **SEND** provision (including EHCP) in the Spring Term. The SEND Governor and Chair will review the SEND provision, including EHCPs, alongside **Pupil Premium** and **Sports Premium**, later in the 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 provide updated information. The Clerk also advises governors of any local training courses available. There is also '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 2024/2025 - 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 (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
05.02.2025