Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors
Chair of Governors Impact Statement
Wednesday 12th December 2024

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 **'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 - October to December 2024
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 term - much appreciated.

2. The Governors held a **Joint Meeting of the Pupil's, Personnel and Community Committee and the School Business Committees.** This meeting was to review staffing, teacher performance and school budget. It was noted that all was working well, and there were no issues of concern about the school budget. All relevant policies were also in place. Governors also reviewed the Nursery budget. The Strategic Financial Lead has now separated the Nursery budget from the overall school budget, which has been recognised as an excellent piece of work by all governors and will assist strategic decisions moving forward. The Strategic Financial Lead will provide monthly budget updates to School Business Committee members. The Herefordshire Council Finance Adviser has recently reviewed the school and nursery budgets and processes. She reported that she was very happy with all of the arrangements in place at the school and thanked the Strategic Financial Lead for their work.

3. 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 term: Kindness
ii) What's happening next week?
iii) After School Clubs available
iv) Walford University
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 December, and some thoughts for the week.
The newsletter is a very detailed briefing note on the excellent work which is undertaken at the school.

4. Following the recent Storm Darragh, the Governors have reviewed **the school's infrastructure**, which included 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.

5. The Governors received a detailed and thoughtful **Briefing from its School Improvement Adviser, Sarah Somers.** Sarah reviewed pupil performance at the school via the DfE Inspection Summary Data Report (ISDR), which is available on the gov.uk website. Governors were also updated on the possible changes to the Ofsted Framework which will be consulted upon early in 2025. A new score-card is likely to replace the current 5 grade assessment. More information to follow. As Chair, I took the opportunity to thank Sarah for her excellent support of the Governors and of the school in general. Sarah will be visiting the school next term to review its curriculum provision and special educational needs (SEND).

6. Governors' paperwork has been updated in relation to **Terms of Reference**, its committees, agendas and reports. 'Support and Challenge,' in the form of questions raised by governors, will be included, and the overall impact of work undertaken, will also be captured in the Headteacher reports.

7. Emma Parkes, **Chair of Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee**, reported on the work of the committee which had met during the school day on Thursday, 5th December. A detailed HT Report was provided and circulated to all governors by the Clerk.
The main areas considered were:
i) Attendance - Currently at 97.2%, attendance is excellent. It was noted that Walford's attendance was the highest in the county of Herefordshire in 2023 - 2024.
ii) ISDR - Available via the DfE and discussed by the committee.
iii) Curriculum was reviewed, alongside training and development opportunities for staff.
iv) The following subject leadership presentations were undertaken: French, Reading, DT, Music and PSHE.
v) Safeguarding training and SEND training had also been undertaken by staff.
vi) The committee also noted the huge amount of activities, events and visits provided for children at Walford during the term.
vii) All relevant policies were in place.
In conclusion, the Chair of the committee, thanked Louise (HT), Emma (Deputy HT), governors, staff and the pupils for their input and support.

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 were also being reviewed regularly.

9. The Vice Chair of Governors will review the **Safeguarding and GDPR** arrangements with the HT in the Spring Term.

10. Sarah Somers (SIA), will review the **SEND** provision (including EHCP) in the Spring Term. The SEND Governor and Chair will review the SEND provision, including EHCP, alongside **Pupil Premium** and **Sports Premium** in the Summer 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 would provide updated information. The Clerk would also advise governors

of any local training courses available. There was also 'bite size' training available from the NGA. New NGA Governor and Chair of Governor Handbooks would be made available in the near future, and would be a useful update for the chair, the clerk and for governors. Safeguarding training for governors had been completed.

12. The HT briefed the governors on the revised PTFA, now known as the WOW Team (Walford-on-Wye), led by our School Council, putting pupil's at the heart of fundraising. The WOW Team has been involved in agreeing a programme of activities via each year group, with volunteer support being requested from parents, carers, staff and the wider community.

13. The Headteacher reported on the **Staff Survey/Staff Voice.** The feedback had been most positive, and governors appreciated the hard work undertaken by all staff at the school.

14. The Chair of Governors would meet with the School Council in the Spring Term and would report back on **'Pupil Voice'.**

15. Governors 2024/2025 - Governors will review their programmes of work via each committee. A training and development event for the governors will consider all of this information in the Summer Term 2025.

16. 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.

17. The Chair thanked the **Clerk to Governors** for ably putting together all of the relevant paperwork in readiness for the meeting.

18. The Chair thanked the **Governors** for their input and support which was much appreciated.

19. 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 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 had been arranged and organised for pupils throughout the term has evidenced and supported the key message from the school's mission statement of:
'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
12.12.2024