

Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors
Chair of Governors Impact Statement
Wednesday, 13th December 2023

Introduction

The Governors are very keen to ensure that parents and 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 organized, and the important work which is undertaken by the governing board.

1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and congratulated Kate Mead and Eve Bound as the new Parent/Carer Governors. Both would serve from 2023 to 2027. Lyndsey Mudie would also serve as an Associate Governor for the same period.

2. Prior to the full governors meeting, the School Improvement Partner (SIP), Sarah Somers, updated the governors on pupil performance at Walford Nursery & Primary School. It was evident that the results were most encouraging indeed. The SIP also provided a national update which was thought to be most useful and helpful. Governors thanked Sarah for her excellent update and congratulated the HT and the team of staff and pupils for achieving such excellent results.

3. The Governors received update reports from the Headteacher and Chairs of Committees, and a summary of the main items are as follows:

A. School Business Committee

i) The HT had provided a very detailed and comprehensive report for this committee which met in November. There were no issues of concern regarding the school budget. The budget was in a healthy position and pupil numbers were excellent.

ii) The committee had reviewed the annual performance of staff with the HT at the joint committee meeting with Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee. Recommendations had been approved and actioned.

iii) The report provided by the HT captured all relevant information on the school finances. A detailed monthly report is provided on the school's finances, so that the governors can review any issues as they arise. There was an update on Sports Premium, and Pupil Premium. No concerns were noted.

iv) There was also an update on Health and Safety. Key issues regarding school premises are reviewed and monitored on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.

iv) The HT was thanked for her comprehensive report, and for the excellent work being undertaken by all staff to support pupils at the school.

B. Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee

- i) The HT had provided a very detailed and comprehensive report for this Committee at its meeting in November.
- ii) All key issues had been considered in relation to: personnel and staffing, safeguarding, pupil well-being and behaviour, attendance, emergency procedures, equalities, including 'British Values,' parental engagement and social cohesion. There were no issues of concern raised.
- iii) All staffing was currently in place and there were no issues of concern raised.
- iv) At the end of the Spring Term 2024, a maternity cover will be required and the HT would action this and liaise with the Chair of Governors.
- v) The Chair would meet with members of the School Council as soon as a date could be fixed. He would prepare a report on his meeting with the pupils and would circulate this for the next governors meeting in February.
- vii) Reporting/Reviewing of pupil attendance was rigorous with robust follow-up in place by the HT and staff to address any issues of concern.
- ix) The HT was thanked for her report and for all of the support given to staff and pupils at this time.

C. Standards Teaching and Learning Committee

- i) The HT had provided a detailed and comprehensive report for this committee. Key information and data was provided for the committee. It was noted that there were 203 pupils on roll with 117 girls and 86 boys. The average attendance figure was around 97.51% with national average being 95.2%. There were no issues regarding attendance. The Governors supported the decision to inform parents of attendance by actual numbers rather than by a percentage figure.
- ii) The HT reported that strategies were in place to raise achievement for all pupils, as well as to ensure there was high quality teaching and learning opportunities across all year groups. There was also a discussion on assessment, tracking and pupil progress and attainment. It was noted that Sarah Somers, the SIP, had briefed governors on the high level of pupil performance.
- iii) School visits and learning outside the classroom was also discussed. The school offered an excellent range of opportunities and it had proved to be an excellent year for all pupils.
- iv) The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher gave a comprehensive update on key performance data for pupils at the school.
- v) Subject Leaders presented strengths and areas for development in the following curriculum areas: Reading, DT, Music, French and PSHE.
- vi) There were no issues with the Sports Premium Funding.
- vii) There had also been an update and a review of SEND provision. No issues of concern were noted.
- viii) The HT was thanked for her report, and for the excellent work being undertaken by all staff to support pupils at the school.

4. The Governors also updated their involvement in the **Committees and Panels** and dates of meetings were agreed. The Clerk will update the website in relation to new governors and their information and declarations of personal and business interests.

5. All is working well as far as the **School Nursery** is concerned. Funding is reported separately as a budget heading. The budget, pupil numbers and staffing is also reviewed regularly and there were no issues of concern raised.

6. The Headteacher updated governors on the **School Development Plan (SDP)**. The SDP is reviewed termly by the Vice Chair of Governors who then reports back to all governors. No issues of concern were raised or noted and all priorities were on track for successful completion.

7. Governors also agreed to review the **SEND provision alongside the support for Pupil Premium and Sports Premium**.

Emily and Paul will arrange to discuss key issues with the Headteacher and senior leadership team after half term and will then report back at the next meeting.

8. There was discussion regarding **Governor Training and Development**. Governors receive useful information and briefings from the Local Authority, Herefordshire Governor's Association and the National Governance Association (NGA) magazine and weekly briefings. The Clerk also advises governors of any local training courses available to them. 'Bitesize' training is available from the NGA. Revised NGA Governor and Chair of Governor Handbooks will be available in the near future, providing a useful update for the Chair the Clerk to governors. Safeguarding training for governors will be reviewed in December.

9. The Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) continued to go from strength-to-strength. It was encouraging to note the support received from parents and carers which is excellent and greatly appreciated by the team. A new committee has been set up and new fund-raising ideas are being actioned.

10. The Headteacher will report the results of the **Staff Survey** later in the year.

11. Governors 2023/2024/2025

Governors will review their programmes of work, via each of their committees. A training and development event for governors will consider all of the information in the Summer Term of 2024. In addition, there will be an opportunity to reflect on any ideas and any key issues of concern which have been raised by parents and carers in the Parent / Carer Survey. Governors will also reflect upon the views of the pupils, via pupil voice, and those of the staff. The overall aim being to continually self-improve.

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

13. The Chair also thanked the **Clerk to Governors** for ably putting together all of the relevant paperwork in readiness for meetings.

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

15. The Chair finally thanked **Senior Leaders and 'Team Walford'** for their superb work, dedication and commitment throughout the year. This had been a busy term in the lead up to Christmas, with so much on offer for all pupils. Governors wished to thank the whole team for the excellent work in supporting all pupils and for everything done to enhance, enrich and support pupil's education, on a daily basis. The **Headteacher**, Louise George, continues to be inspirational in relation to the leadership evidenced across the school.

Particular **thanks** were also addressed to Emma Hanham, Deputy Headteacher, and to Lyndsey Mudie, Administrative Assistant, 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 had 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

18/12/23