

Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors
Chair of Governors Impact Statement
Wednesday, 11th October 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 organised, and the important work which is undertaken by the governing board.

1. As this was the **Annual General Meeting** of the Governors, the Governors had to elect both the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Board. Paul Deneen OBE JP DL said that he was delighted to have been re-elected and he was also particularly pleased that Emma Parkes was also re-elected as the Vice Chair of Governors. Both were unanimously agreed. The Chair also congratulated Emma Hanham on her election result, having being appointed as the Staff Governor.

2. As the various governor committees would be held a bit later in the term, the Chair of Governors asked the Headteacher to provide governors with an interim position statement as a brief update about the start of the school term. A summary provided by the HT was as follows:

i) Attendance

Pupil attendance was 96.2% for September and 98.56% in October with a national figure of 95%. Persistent absence was being monitored very closely and support was being provided as necessary.

ii) Curriculum

Geography is currently being update using the Kapow programme materials. The Mastering Number programme for Year 4 and Year 5 has been launched. There whole school enjoyed celebrating Hedgehog Day, along with World Mental Health Day. The Harvest Festival, including the Nursery & KS1 Class Assembly, a KS2 Market, Year 6 Harvest Hamper Auction and exciting Harvest Raffle, was an enormous success.

iii) Achievements and Awards

A pupil in Year 6 was the overall winner of the national 'Diana Award for Anti -Bullying - Design an Alien Art competition. The school has retained its Technology Regional Training Centre Status from Apple for the eleventh year. This is impressive recognition of the great work being undertaken across the school. In addition, the school has also achieved the 'Gold Games Mark' for the 4th year in a row. The aim is to work towards a Platinum Award moving forward.

iv) Staff Training and Development

School staff have already undertaken a considerable amount of training and development, including Safeguarding, Values, Seizures in Children and Fire training. Two TAs have also undertaken EYFS training, as well as various RWI (Read, Write Inclusive) updates.

v) Personnel and Staffing

The school is fully staffed. This term, a part time Teaching Assistant (Tuesday to Friday) has also joined the team and all is working well.

vi) Site Management and Premises

All is fine. The new Year 6 Classroom is well underway and will be ready for staff and pupils to move into it after half term, and before Christmas.

vii) Budget

There are currently no issues of concern with the school of Nursery budgets.

viii) **Safeguarding**

All teaching and non teaching completed Safeguarding training. Governor Safeguarding training will be revisited at the December meeting.

ix) **Pupil numbers**

All is fine in relation to pupil numbers with no issues of concern noted.

x) **SEND Pupils**

The SEND Register will be reviewed in the Spring Term, along with Pupil Premium and Sports Premium.

3. 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 governors and their information and declarations of personal and business interests. All governors are supported by the National Governance Association's Code of Conduct. It was decided that there would be no changes to governor committees for the ensuing year. Dates of meetings were circulated. Paperwork would be updated by the Clerk in relation to Governor Terms of Reference, committee agendas and reports. 'Support and challenge,' in the form of questions raised by governors, would also be included, and the overall impact of work undertaken, would be captured in the Headteacher reports.

4. Paul Deneen, Chair of the **Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee**, reported that all teaching staffing were in place at the beginning of term. Further discussion regarding support staff would take place in the near future. The HT had completed her Performance Management Review and would be undertaking Performance Management Reviews for all staff, throughout the Autumn Term.

5. Charlie Lawson, Chair of the **School Business Committee**, reported that all was well with the school budget and finances. He will receive a further update from the school's Administrative Assistant in order to prepare for the next committee meeting, later in the term. Charlie will then provide an updated report at the next full governing board meeting.

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

7. Emma Parkes, Chair of the **Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee** will have a meeting during the Autumn Term which will be reported back to all governors. Pupil tracking is thoroughly and rigorously monitored by senior leaders. The SIP (School Improvement Partner) will provide a report on pupil performance and update on both curriculum issues and on the Ofsted progress, at the meeting in December.

8. The Chair of Governors reported that there had been a most productive discussion with the **School Improvement Partner** (SIP) in relation to the Headteacher appraisal. More information will follow, once the report had been completed.

9. The Headteacher updated governors on the **School Improvement Plan (SIP)**. The SIP 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.

10. Governors also agreed to review the **SEND and 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.

11. 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 Magazine and weekly briefings. The Clerk also advises governors of any local training courses available to them. 'Bite size' 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.

12. The Parent, Teacher and Friends Association, known as the '**PTFA**,' continued to go from strength-to-strength. It was encouraging to note the support received from parents and carers which was excellent and greatly appreciated by the team. A new committee had been set up and new fund-raising ideas were being actioned.

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

14. The Chair of Governors will meet with the School Council and report back to all governors regarding '**Pupil Voice**' issues .

15. In the Summer of 2022, Governors completed a **skills audit** based on the DfEs Six Key Competencies following a discussion regarding its overall membership. Governors decided to advertise for two Parent / Carer governors in the Autumn Term 2023. The key skills, knowledge and experience identified for the role/s included: Business; Fundraising; Premises, Buildings. Health and Safety; Data Analysis; Leadership and Management; Marketing; Press and Public Relations. The Chair will liaise with the HT and Clerk about the paperwork. The Chair will also review and refresh the information on '**The Governance, Strategic Leadership and Planning Document - 2023**,' which was on the school website.

16. Governors 2023/24/25 .

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 v The overall aim being to continually self-improve.

17. 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 was a professional working relationship between the school and governors/governance.

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

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

20. The Chair finally thanked Senior Leaders and 'Team Walford' for their superb work, dedication and commitment throughout the year. Once again, this had been a busy term,

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 of:

'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

18/10/23