

**Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors**  
**Chair of Governors Impact Statement**  
**Wednesday 24th May 2023**

**Introduction**

The Governors are keen to ensure that parents/carers are kept informed of the work of the board of governors. On the school website, under the **Governors** banner, please take the time to read through the **'Walford Governor's - Governance and Strategic Leadership Document - 2020'**. 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. Evidence of the thoughtful Governor questioning is detailed in the Minutes of each meeting.

1. The Chair welcomed the Governors to the meeting. He thanked the Headteacher for the kind words expressed at the Celebration of Life Service regarding former Chair of Governors, Mrs Joyce Thomas MBE DL, who had served as a Governor for 44 years.

2. The Chair reported that he had made several visits to the school, particularly at the time of the visit by Ofsted on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May. The Headteacher gave an update on the Ofsted inspection. All staff and pupils input had been exemplary. Governors thanked Louise and the team for all their hard work at the school and for the additional work/support required during the Ofsted visit. Mr Spoor, the Ofsted Inspector, will have seen the school as it was on a daily basis, and he had the opportunity to visit lessons, request documentation and speak with all stakeholders at the school. At the final briefing, the Chair thanked the Ofsted Inspector for his professional approach in leading this inspection visit. The full report will be available before the end of term. Initial feedback had been impressive.

3. Paul Deneen - The Chair of the **Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee** reported that all teaching and support staff had been in place at the beginning of term. All relevant policies were also in place. There were no issues of concern noted.

4. Charlie Lawson - The Chair of the **School Business Committee** reported that all was well with the school budget and finances. Governors had received an update from Lyndsey Mudie, Administrative Assistant. The annual budget had been discussed and agreed with Herefordshire Council. There were no issues of concern noted. The budget received unanimous agreement and was approved. The Chair thanked Charlie Lawson, Louise George, Emma Hanham and Lyndsey Mudie for their valuable input.

Discussion also took place about the building of a new classroom. Governors were in full support of the new build, which will be completed in the academic year 2023/2024. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

5. 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 regularly reviewed. With the number of highly trained Early Years practitioners at the school, ongoing staffing issues (a problem for all educational establishments) are being addressed swiftly.

6. Emma Parkes as The Chair of Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee will be chairing a meeting this term and would report back to all governors at the next meeting. Highly effective pupil tracking procedures continue to run smoothly. No issues or concerns were noted. The Headteacher updated the meeting regarding this year's SATs which had recently been undertaken by pupils in Year 2 and Year 6. The Headteacher also briefed the meeting on the excellent results obtained regarding various national and local competitions involving Engineering, Maths and Art.

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

8. SEND - All is going well and no issues of concern were raised. The Chair thanked Emily Crewe and Anna Jones (SENCo) for their input and hard work.

9. There was discussion regarding Governor Training and Development. Information and briefings from the Local Authority, Herefordshire Governor's Association and the National Governance Association (NGA), its magazine and weekly briefing, provide key updates for all governors. In addition, the Clerk advises governors of any local training courses available. There is also 'bite size' training available from the NGA. Governors reported that they had all completed their updated safeguarding training.

10. The Parent, Teacher and Friends Association known as the 'PTEFA' continues to go from strength-to-strength. It was encouraging to note the excellent support received from parents/carers and greatly appreciated. The new committee was considering new fundraising ideas to be actioned. The Chair said he hoped to attend one of the meetings in the near future in order to thank all those involved for their excellent support.

11. Governors continued to act as a 'Critical Friend' to the school. At each meeting, governors offered appropriate 'support and challenge' and made recommendations/decisions as required. There was a professional working relationship between the school and governors/governance.

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

13. The Chair thanked the Governors for their input and support which was much appreciated. This had been another very busy term for committees and for governor leads of specific areas, e.g., Health & Safety, Curriculum, SEND, Pupil Premium and Safeguarding.

14. The Chair finally thanked the SLT and 'Team Walford' for their superb work, dedication and commitment at this time. Governors wished to thank them for the 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 has been inspirational in relation to the leadership evidenced.

Particular thanks also to Emma Hanham, Deputy Headteacher and Lynsey Mudie, Administrative Assistant, for their superb efforts in supporting the work of the school.

The Governors believe that everything being undertaken regarding the overall aim to continue 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  
27.05.2023