

Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors
Chair of Governors Impact Statement
Wednesday 29th March 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 organised, and the important work which is undertaken by the governing board.

1. The Chair welcomed the Governors to the meeting. He thanked the Headteacher for the School Newsletter coverage in relation to the sad news about Mrs Joyce Thomas MBE DL, a former Chair of Governors at the school.

2. The Chair reported that he had made several visits to the school. He had noted the **excellent behaviour of the children** and that all staff had been positive and upbeat in relation to their work. He had undertaken a review of **Pupil Premium**. The evidence produced was detailed and clearly showed achievements and outcomes for pupils involved. It included support, referenced attendance and pupil performance in Maths, English (Reading and Writing). The overall budget for Pupil Premium was £42,160. 29 pupils were receiving support. All relevant policy information and paperwork is available on the school website. The Chair thanked the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher for the detailed information which was excellent.

The Chair had the opportunity to meet with a **group of visiting teachers who had come to observe Teaching for Mastery in Maths**. Feedback from the visitors was extremely positive and complimentary to pupils and staff.

A review had also taken place regarding **health and safety**. All policies and procedures were in place, and no issues of concern were noted. The Chair thanked Lyndsey Mudie and Eve Bound for their continued support and input.

A new P/T **Caretaker** had been appointed and they were settling well into their role.

3. Paul Deneen - The Chair of the **Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee** reported that all teaching and support staffing had been in place at the beginning of term. All relevant policies were also in place. A meeting of the committee had taken place on **Wednesday 29th March 2023**. The Governors had an updated report on personnel, safeguarding and attendance which was 96.78% compared to a national average of 93.8%. There was also a very useful discussion on pupil behaviour - which is exemplary throughout the

school, emergency fire drill/s, school meal uptake - 74.6%. The committee also considered equalities, parental engagement and community cohesion. 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. He had received a further update from the school's Administrative Assistant at the committee meeting which was held on Wednesday 1st March 2023. The School Financial Value Standard (SFVS) pro-forma was considered and comments made in draft finalised. The SFVS had to be completed by 31st March 2023. The committee spent some time reviewing the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) document. A completed draft of the SFVS document had been circulated to all governors for their consideration at the full governors meeting. The Chair said that SFVS was a very useful assurance mechanism for the governors. It ensured that the school achieved a good level of financial health/resource management. There were six key areas of activity for reporting which included sections on: Governance; School's Strategy; Setting the Annual Budget; Staffing; Value for Money and Protecting Public Money. It was useful to be able to discuss key areas, and provide relevant evidence. After discussion, the document was unanimously approved. The Chair thanked Charlie, Louise, Emma H and Lyndsey for their valuable input.

Discussion also took place about the new build of a 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. No issues of concern were raised.

6. Emma Parkes, Chair of **Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee**, held a meeting of the committee on Tuesday 21st March 2023. Pupil outcomes were discussed. All Governors received written reports on monitoring visit/s conducted throughout the term and Emma P provided a verbal update at the Full Governors Meeting.

The subject leader for English (Writing) presented her plan, highlighting key developments, such as the Write Stuff (Jane Considine), the teaching of grammar, Big Write and World Poetry Day. There was also an update on the school's new spelling programme in line with RWI.

There was a further briefing on the curriculum developments in History, Computing, Mathematics and PE. There was some terrific work evidenced from this review, including the recent Parent and Carer Maths Learning Walks and Mastering Number Workshops.

There was clear evidence of triangulation between senior leaders, staff and governors via the School Development Plan.

Evidence of the thoughtful Governor questioning is detailed in the Minutes of each meeting.

7. The Headteacher updated **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** Emily met with the new SENCo Lead and various matters were discussed. These included: the budget, pupil activities, training, provision, adaptations and outcomes for the 29 pupils, to ensure that each pupil is able to achieve their very best. A detailed report had been produced and circulated. All was going well and no issues of concern were raised. The Chair thanked Emily and Anna 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 and its magazine and weekly briefing 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. Governors reported that they had all completed their updated safeguarding training.

10. The Parent, Teacher and Friends Association known as the **'PTFA'** 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 to 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 Officer, for their superb efforts in supporting the work of the school.

The Governors believe that everything was 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 of the second half of the spring term - much appreciated.

Paul Deneen OBE JP DL
Chair of the Board of Governors
30.03.2023