

Walford Nursery and Primary School

Chair of Governors Report / Impact Statement Meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2022

Introduction

The Governors are very keen to ensure that parents/carers are kept informed of the work of the board of governors which can be found on the school website, under the **Governor's** banner. Please take time to read through the **'Walford Governor's - Governance and Strategic Leadership Document'**. 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.

Prior to the meeting, the School Improvement Partner (SIP), Sarah Somers, was invited to brief the Governors on the school's Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR) and latest Ofsted updates. It was clearly evident that the school results were most encouraging.

The SIP explained that in order to receive the 'significantly above statement', the school had to be in the top 20% of all schools across the country. The data was evidently strong and the SIP stated that the school community should be proud of the children's achievements.

The school's progress and attainment in Reading, Writing and combined (Reading, Writing and Maths) was in the top 20% of all schools across the country. The school's attainment in Maths was in the top 20% of all schools across the country. Attainment was significantly above national expectations whilst Greater Depth was above national averages but not significantly above. It was noted that in mathematics, a few pupils had just missed the expected standard / greater depth by just one scaled point score (99 out of 100 and 09 out of 110).

Governors congratulated the whole school community on achieving such excellent results.

1. School Business Committee

- i) The HT provided a very detailed and comprehensive report for this committee. The budget continued to be in a healthy position and pupil numbers were excellent. There were no issues of concern regarding the school budget.
- ii) The committee had reviewed the annual performance management review of staff with the HT at a joint committee meeting with the 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 so that governors could review any issues as they arise. Governors were updated on Sports Premium and Pupil Premium. No concerns were noted.
- iv) There was also an update provided on health and safety. Key issues regarding school premises were reviewed and are monitored on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Governors agreed to fund the replacement of fencing at the back of the school to ensure that the site is safe and secure.
- 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.

2. Standards Teaching and Learning Committee

- i) The HT provided a detailed and comprehensive report for this committee. Key information and data was shared with the committee. It was noted that there were 199 pupils on roll with 112 girls and 87 boys. The average attendance figure was 97.44% with the national average being 94.9%. There were no issues or concerns regarding attendance. The Governors supported the decision to inform parents / carers of attendance by the number of days, rather than by a percentage figure. An attendance figure of 90% may be interpreted by parents / carers as a good level of attendance which is misleading. Good or better attendance is actually 97%+.
- 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 pupil performance.
- iii) School visits and learning outside the classroom was also discussed. The school offers an excellent range of opportunities and it had proved to be an excellent year so far for all pupils.
- iv) The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher gave a comprehensive update on key performance data for pupils at the school.
- v) There were no issues with the Sports Premium Funding. The school had received generous sponsorship from the Authentic Bread Company for school PE kit.
- vi) There had also been an update and a review of SEND provision. Senior Leaders have been creating a comprehensive list of SEND, including interventions, adaptations and other useful comments. No issues of concern were noted. Detailed plans and support information had been included in the report. Staffing had been reviewed as the SENDCo had resigned from her part-time teaching/work commitments. Throughout the Autumn Term, time had been allocated, including SEND training and support, to the teacher assuming the role in January 2023 ensuring an effective handover.
- vi) The HT was thanked for her report, and for the excellent work being undertaken by all staff to support pupils at the school.

3. Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee

- i) The HT had provided a very detailed and comprehensive report for this Committee.
- ii) All key issues had been considered in relation to: Personnel and staffing, safeguarding, pupil well-being and behaviour, attendance, emergency procedures, equalities particularly around 'British Values', parental engagement and social cohesion.
- iii) The HT reported that the School Business Manager had resigned and the Site Manager had reduced their working commitments. Both member of staff had given superb and outstanding service to the school. Discussions would take place regarding staff recruitment via Hoople HR Services.
- iv) In addition, there would be a teacher and TA maternity cover required.
- v) The Chair would meet with members of the School Council before the end of term in order to seek pupil views / voice and consider any potential ideas / requests. A copy of the report is attached as an addendum.
- vi) Reporting/Reviewing of pupil attendance would now require regular monitoring on an agreed template, so that governors could be assured that all pupils received the full support in relation to his/her education. The new DfE Guidance was very prescriptive. Parents/carers had been informed of the new guidance early on in the new term. Governors supported that information relayed to parents / carers should be in days and not

percentage figures, as this captured the situation better and would make it more transparent.

vii) The HT was thanked for her report and for all of the support given to staff and pupils at this time.

4. The Chair of Governors reported that there had been a most productive discussion with the **SIP** in relation to the Headteacher's performance management review. The Headteacher had been inspirational in relation to the leadership evidenced. More information including target-setting would follow, once the report had been completed.

5. The Headteacher shared an update regarding the **School Development Plan (SDP)**. This document is reviewed termly by the Vice Chair of Governors who reports back to all governors. All priorities are on track for successful completion.

6. Governors also agreed to undertake a 6 monthly review of both **SEND and More Able and Talented (MAT) provision and the support for pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium**. Emily and Paul would arrange to discuss key issues with the Leadership team in the Spring Term and report back at the next meeting.

7. There was discussion regarding **Governor Training and Development**. Information and briefings from the Local Authority, Herefordshire Governor's Association, the National Governance Association and its magazine and weekly briefing 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 were circulated to governors, providing a useful update. It was also noted that all governors had completed their updated safeguarding training.

8. The Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (**PTFA**) continues to go from strength to strength. It was encouraging to note the excellent support received from parents/carers which is greatly appreciated. Wreath making workshops and Christmas Fayre had both been very successful events.

9. Governors continued to act as a '**Critical friend**' to the school. At each meeting governors offered appropriate 'support and challenge' and made recommendations and decisions as required. There was a professional working relationship between the school and governors.

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

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

12. The Chair finally thanked **Louise George, Head Teacher, SLT and overall 'Team Walford'** for their superb work, dedication and commitment at this time. Governors wished to thank them all for the excellent work in supporting pupils and also for all that they do to enhance, enrich and support pupil's education on a daily basis. Particular thanks was also extended to Emma Hanham, Deputy Headteacher and Eve Bound, School Business Manager, for their superb efforts in supporting the school. The governors believe that everything undertaken aims to promote the key message from the school's mission statement, '**Learning and Enjoyment... Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Day!**'

ADDENDUM
Report of Chair of Governors Meeting with the School Council - 09.12.2022.

1. As Chair of Governors, I visited the school to join pupils in the hall for Christmas lunch. It was pleasing to note that all pupils were thoroughly enjoying their lunch, having fun pulling crackers and wearing Christmas hats.

2. It was a huge privilege to meet with the School Council and Class 6 in order to listen to their thoughts, ideas and views.

3. The pupils gave a detailed breakdown of the programme of activities which had been arranged at the school this term, which included a summary of the term's events with which the school council had been directly involved. In addition, School Council members explained important key events including:

- Pupil Awards;
- Anti-Bullying Ambassadors - Respect Award;
- Sports Crew events;
- School Lunch Request - mayonnaise;
- Community Partners;
- European Day of Languages;
- Be Aware safety booklet donated by a local business (Biz Stationery);
- World Mental Health Day;
- Harvest Festival;
- Thank You assembly for Drummond's Farm staff;
- Disco;
- Cyber-bullying workshops;
- Sponsored Readathon.

4. I asked Class 6 to tell me what they knew about 'British Values' and was hugely impressed with their knowledge, quality of discussion and understanding in relation to:

- Democracy;
- Rule of Law;
- Tolerance of Other Cultures/Religions;
- Mutual Respect and
- Individual Liberty.

It is clear that this work has been embedded within the curriculum, which is excellent.

5. All pupils fully understand the school's behaviour curriculum and, in particular, the three school rules: Ready, Respect and Safe.

6. Class 6, together with the School Council members, presented their thoughts and ideas about the benefits of investing in a school 3D printer. Pupils were proud to inform me that they had already organised fundraising events, including the Christmas Fayre to raise money for this exciting project.

Once purchased, pupils informed me that they will continue to raise money by making a variety of things already planned using the 3D printer.

7. The pupils had put together a superb business case, and following a discussion with HT, it was agreed to approve the purchase of a 3D printer. The Headteacher will action this in the Spring Term.

5. Throughout my visit the attitude and behaviour of every pupil at the school was exemplary.

Huge thanks to the Headteacher and Mrs Nicholls (Year 6 Teacher) for facilitating such a positive and useful meeting. A great deal of information was discussed and the request for

consideration of the purchase of a 3D Printer had been thoughtfully considered by the pupils and the evidence had been put together well. The decision made to authorize the purchase a 3D Printer was very received by the School Council and Class 6.

Paul Deneen OBE JP DL
Chair of Governors
09.12.2022.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information/update - much appreciated.