

## **Walford Nursery & Primary School Board of Governors**

### **Chair of Governors Impact Statement – 5th October 2022**

#### **Introduction**

The Governors are very keen to ensure that parents/carers are able to be 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 '**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.** As this was the **Annual General Meeting** of the Governors, Paul Deneen OBE JP DL said it was a great privilege and honour to be re-elected as Chair of Governors. In addition, he said he was delighted that Emma Parkes was also re-elected as Vice Chair of Governors.

**2.** As the various governor committees would be held later in the term, the Chair of Governors had asked the Headteacher to provide the governors with an **interim position statement as a brief/update about the start of the school year**.

The questions and the responses would be attached to the minutes of the meeting, as a record of the update.

The **questions** posed were:-

- i) How was the start of term in relation to each of the following - The school site; standards, teaching and learning; support staff; the nursery; pupils; parents/carers?
- ii) School / Nursery budget?
- iii) Pupil performance / benchmarking?
- iv) Personnel update.
- v) Safeguarding update.
- vi) Any issues regarding the implementation of the new DfE Attendance Policy?
- vii) Any site management issues?
- viii) Pupil Premium / Sports Premium update.
- ix) SEND and MAT update.
- x) What can the governors do to support the school?

The Headteacher provided a **detailed and thoughtful report/update on all key areas** mentioned i) to x). There were no issues of concern noted. The start of term had been most successful. The Governors also thanked the Headteacher for the superb pupil performance results, which were significantly above national expectations; Early Years Foundation Stage, Year 1 Phonic Screening Check, end of Key Stage 1, Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check and end of Key Stage 2.

In addition, there were some amazing results in a recent national Art in Science competition, organised by Bristol University. The school achieved 1st, 2nd and 3rd in both the Key Stage 1 and the Key Stage 2 competitions, as well as Overall 1<sup>st</sup> place award.

EC Drummonds had completed some wonderful voluntary work on site during the summer holidays. A 'Thank You' assembly is being arranged for Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

The Headteacher also briefed the governors on key events for the first part of the Autumn Term.

**3.** The Governors updated their involvement in the **Committees and Panels**. Dates of meetings were also agreed. The Clerk also would also update the website in relation to governors and their information and declarations of personal and business interests. All governors support 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 would be circulated early in the Autumn Term. Paperwork would be updated in relation to:- Governor Terms of Reference, committee agendas and reports. 'Support and challenge,' in the form of questions raised by governors, would 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 had been in place at the beginning of term. Further discussion on support staff would take place in the near future.

**5.** Charlie Lawson - Chair of the **School Business Committee** reported that all was well with the school budget and finances. He would shortly be receiving a further update from the School Business Manager to prepare for the next committee meeting later in the term. Charlie will provide an updated report at the next full governing board meeting.

**6.** 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.

**7.** Emma Parkes as The Chair of **Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee** would be holding a meeting this term and would report back at a later date. The **School Improvement Partner (SIP)** would provide an Ofsted Briefing for governors at the meeting in December.

**8.** 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. Louise had been inspirational in relation to the leadership evidenced. More information would follow, once the report had been completed.

**9.** The Headteacher shared an update regarding the **School Improvement Plan (SIP)**. 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.

**10.** Governors also agreed to review both its **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 Headteacher and team after half term and would report back at the next meeting.

**11.** 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 would be made available in the near future, providing a useful update. Governors must complete their updated safeguarding training and would report on this to the School Business Manager so that an updated record can be evidenced.

**12.** 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. A new committee had been recently set up and new fund raising ideas were being actioned.

**13.** The Headteacher would be reporting later in the term on the results of the **Staff Survey**.

**14.** The Chair of Governors would meet with the School Council and would report back on **'Pupil Voice'**.

**15.** The Governors had completed a **skills audit** based on the DfE's 6 Key Competencies, and had also discussed its overall membership.

**16. Governors skills audit, reflections on the past year and plans for the new academic year 2022/23.**

Governors completed skills audits, which assisted in considering whether there were any gaps in expertise. There was also the opportunity to reflect on key issues of concern which had been raised by parents/carers. The area of parent/carer input via social media and facebook etc, was a particular area discussed. It was also agreed that parents/carers should be advised of their responsibilities in relation to their social media use and behaviour towards the Headteacher and school staff.

**17.** 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.

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

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

**20.** 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 believed that everything was being undertaken to 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 - much appreciated.**