

Walford Primary School Governors Meeting - September 2018.
Impact Statement - Chair of Governors - Paul Deneen OBE JP DL.

Walford Governors held their AGM and appointed the Chair (Paul Deneen) and Vice - Chair (Emma Parkes). The Governors also agreed membership and Chairs/Vice Chairs of the 3 main Committees (and Panels). There was also the opportunity for Governors to review and reflect upon the structure of governance, and update governor work plans at Walford. Governors also considered succession planning in relation to co-opted governors, who were appointed for their skills and qualities, which would offer continued stability for the future.

All of the governor information and business and pecuniary interests information was also able to be updated. A record will be able to be placed on the school website, so that all is now fully completed and compliant.

There was an update from the Strategic Group in relation to its planning and performance management. The Chair agreed to draft a foreword for strategic planning so that there would be a joined-up understanding of the structures and governance at Walford Primary School.

After discussion Governors agreed with the Terms of Reference for all of the 3 Committees. The Vice Chair of Governors would also continue to report on the progress of the School Development Plan. Two Chairs of Committees would also review the Headteacher performance with the School Improvement Adviser, and would report to Governors.

The Governors received a detailed report on pupil performance from the Headteacher. Governors were delighted to receive a copy of a letter from the Director of Children's Services at the Herefordshire Council about Walford's results. The Chair of Governors took the opportunity to congratulate all concerned. Governors would meet with staff to thank them personally at a lunch event. There would also be an opportunity to meet and welcome all new staff to the school.

There was a separate discussion about whether we should ask for a review from Ofsted, as the results were very pleasing indeed. The Chair and Headteacher would discuss this matter further, to decide what would be best for the school.

There was also a discussion about the school budget, and health and safety. Governors were pleased to note that the budget level remains positive. There is to be a discussion over the next few weeks about emergency planning, which will also be useful as far as health and safety is concerned.

The Headteacher reported that all the staff are in place, and that the new apprentice teaching assistants and staff have settled in very well, and that there has been a very good start to the school year. Safeguarding and GDPR were discussed at the Governor's meeting and there were no issues or concerns noted.

The PTFA continues to go from strength to strength. It was encouraging to note the support which is received from parents/carers which is excellent and greatly appreciated. Action in relation to car parking and the new charter was being followed up. This had involved discussions with pupils at the School Council as well.

Links with the local community continue to be strengthened with the community lunch being a great success. There are also close links developed with the Local Church, Parish Council and the Royal British Legion (RBL). The RBL would be visiting the school to take a special assembly, about the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Governors continue to act as a 'critical friend' to the school, and at each Governor meeting offers appropriate 'support and challenge' and make recommendations as necessary.

The Governors are most grateful to the Clerk of Governors for her work in preparing papers for the meeting/s, and for her advice and input.

Governors appreciate all the hard work, dedication and commitment undertaken by all staff at the school, and place on record its huge thanks to the Headteacher Louise George and all of the staff for their excellent work.