

Walford Primary School Board of Governors - Annual Impact Statement - Summer 2018 - Paul Deneen OBE JP DL - Chair of the Board of Governors.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to complete this Annual Impact Statement, and to update parents/carers and friends of the school on key developments.

1. Introduction

As Chair of the Board of Governors, I would like to explain that the role of the Governor is intended to be strategic in nature, whilst also being a 'critical friend' to the Head Teacher and the School Leadership Team. This Leadership Team, very ably led by the Head Teacher together with the Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Support Staff are responsible for the day to day operational responsibility of running the school.

In reviewing the way the school works, the Governors have gained an enormous respect for all of the staff and pupils at "Team Walford."

The amount of care, effort and support for the children at Walford evidences staff 'going that extra mile' on a regular basis, and this is nothing short of inspirational.

There is a broad, balanced and fulfilling programme of education which benefits each and every child at the school. We are therefore most grateful to the Head Teacher and her team for the dedication and professionalism and for the support in relation to the academic progress, concerts, trips, sports, clubs and all other activities which enriches the experience of school for the children.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board of Governors to thank the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Senior Leaders, Teachers, Teaching Assistants and all of the Support Staff for their care, commitment and excellent support of all of the pupils at the school.

I also would like to pay tribute to all involved with the Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (**PTFA**) which does much to help, assist and involve parents/carers with supporting the pupils and school, and for this the Governors are most grateful.

2. Role of the Governors, Governor Training, Governor Expertise, Involvement and Visits.

The Board of Governors at our school endeavours to fulfil the role as defined by the Department of Education supported by the Herefordshire Council. In doing so we hope that we can make Walford Primary School the very best it can be for the benefit of the children at the school. All members of the Governing Body receive training and attend external events which allows everyone to keep up to date with responsibilities with regards to the latest guidance, requirements and expectations. The Governors bring a wide variety of experience and expertise to Walford Primary School, and this helps to ensure that the school looks to continually 'self improve' and that standards are constantly raised in a way that is in line with the strategic vision of the school. Governors annually reviews its progress as part of its 'self review' of its governance.

3. Constitution - The Board of Governors - 2017-18.

Head Teacher - Louise George. One Staff Governor - Emma Hanham.

Three Parent Governors - Tim Murray, Emily Crewe, Emma Parkes (Vice Chair).

One Local Authority Governor - Joyce Thomas MBE DL.

Five Co-opted Governors - Karen Chinn, Liz Boynton, Charles Lawson, Paul Deneen (Chair), George Smith. Two Associate Governors - Melanie Coley and Eve Roberts.

Clerk to the Governors - Gwyneth Gill.

4. School Development Plan.

The Head Teacher, Senior Leaders and the Governors have discussed and agreed the School Development Plan for the school. This is considered on an annual basis, and there is regular reporting to Governors by the Headteacher in relation to the plan itself.

5. Structure/Committees and Governor Support and Attendance.

Governors meet formally each half term. There are committees which the Governors serve on which reports into the Governing Body. These include:- Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee; Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee and the Business Committee.

Governor attendance for these meetings is attached to this report.

Governors also attend and support the school at various school events and activities each term and throughout the school year. These include:- School productions, Christmas activities, community luncheons, the "Oscar" awards celebration, school assemblies, visits by guests, and events arranged by the school.

There is also active support for the work of the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA), and its fund raising events and activities.

6. Financial Management / School Budget - Positive Outlook for the School Budget.

The Business Committee together with the Headteacher and her team oversees the budget and monitors this on a regular basis, and reports in to the Governors at their meetings. This is a crucial area of work, so as to ensure we have robust systems in place to evidence efficiency and effective use of the resources available for the benefit of pupils.

7. Website.

The Governors have a section on the school website, which keeps parents/carers up to date in relation to the work of the Governors.

8. Achievement of Pupils.

Governors receive regular reports from the Headteacher on the performance of pupils at the various pupil key stages. Discussions take place and actions are agreed. The Governors also monitor the pupil premium for pupils who are eligible to receive this, so that the aim is for pupils to achieve to their true potential ability. Governors from the Standards Teaching and Learning Committee have responsibility for this vital area of scrutiny, supported by the Head Teacher.

9. Performance of Headteacher, Teachers and Support Staff.

The Governors have a committee (which consists of the Vice Chair of Governors, Chair of the Business Committee and one of the Joint Chairs of the Personnel and Community Committee), which meets with the Independent School Improvement Adviser to discuss the performance of the Head Teacher. A report is produced and is reported on to the Governors on an annual basis. The Head Teacher has responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the performance of senior leaders, Teachers and Support Staff. This is also undertaken on an annual basis, and is reported upon by the Headteacher to Governors.

10. Safeguarding and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Safeguarding of pupils is of paramount importance to the Governors, Headteacher and all of the staff. One of our Governors also acts as the Lead Governor in relation to the issue of safeguarding and GDPR, and along with the Head Teacher, reports on key matters at Governors meetings. As Governors we are all DBS checked at 'enhanced level.' We also undertake regular training in relation to safeguarding.

11. School Environment - Update - The Thomas Hall and The Boynton Lodge.

The Governors support the Headteacher and the Staff to make the school environment as pleasant as it possibly can be. The Headteacher, Teachers, Teaching Assistants and staff do their very best to ensure that the displays in the classroom and around the school are interesting and vibrant, and visitors have commented to Governors about how welcoming they feel on arrival at the school, and how great the school looks when they are taken around or visit. We were delighted to open our new outside classroom (The Boynton Lodge), and we have also re-named the school hall as the Thomas Hall, to honour our long serving Governors, Joyce Thomas MBE and Liz Boynton. We thank all of the staff involved in making the school so vibrant, and particularly the site manager for his excellent help and support. We welcomed Anthea McIntyre MEP, and Lord and Lady Lisvane, and 7 times paralympian winner Sascha Kindred CBE to the school. All of our guests were most complimentary about the school and its pupils.

12. Recruitment of Staff.

All staff who are recruited to work at the school, go through a recruitment, selection and interview process as advised by the Herefordshire Council policy, which has been agreed by the Governors at the school. This important aspect of the work of the school is undertaken by the Personnel and Community Committee of Governors supported by the Head Teacher.

13. Pupil, Parent/Carer and Community Voice

The Governors listen carefully to the views of the pupils, and meet with the School Council. This year we had a very useful focus on pupils arriving and leaving school, and discussed safety and car parking and the 'drop and go' system. There are programmed meetings in the school diary with parents/carers and staff. Community members also attend our community lunches, and events and activities, and we value the link with the Walford community.

14. Impact of the Governing Body.

The Governors regularly review its work in relation to its support and challenge in its 'critical friend,' role at the school. The Governors make decisions which aims to provide benefits the pupils of the school. The Governors also aim to have a positive impact to ensure that pupils achieve to their potential, and enjoy their experience of school. Governors therefore do their very best to support the school. It also takes on board that the mission statement serves as a constant reminder of the importance of "Learning and Enjoyment....Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Day," and that the aim of the



Governors is that this really does become a reality for pupils on a daily basis.

