

Walford Primary School - Board of Governors - Impact Statement for Summer Term 2019 - Paul Deneen OBE JP DL - Chair of the Board of Governors

The main focus for the Governors at the meeting was to receive an update from the Head Teacher on all relevant key issues for the summer term. It also allowed time for discussion of the results of the Governor's Skills Audit and the Annual Governor Review. I have summarised the key discussions below. Our role as Governors is to act as a 'critical friend,' as well as supporting the school and its work whilst ensuring excellent pupil health, safety, wellbeing, and pupil performance.

1. School and Head Teacher Update on the Summer Term

The Head Teacher reported that it had been an incredibly busy summer term. All of the year groups had been involved in exciting curriculum work, as well as enjoying an enhanced provision of a wide range of activities, sporting events and visits. Parents/carers had also received annual pupil reports and had also met with teachers to discuss individual pupil progress and performance. The Head Teacher highlighted some specific areas of activity:-

Year 6

Year 6 Leavers' were involved in a number of end of term activities and events, culminating in an excellent production of 'Cinderella Rockerfella.' There were some outstanding performances and the production was enjoyed by all who attended. There was also a special 'Leavers Assembly', which involved a number of special presentations and certificates.

Thank You Assembly

The school conducted its annual 'thank you' assembly, led by pupils in Year 6, to recognise and thank all involved in helping and supporting school events/activities. Once again, this assembly was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Pupil Premium and Sport's Premium

An Annual Governor Review of the pupil premium was undertaken by myself, as Chair of Governors. A full report was made to all Governors in relation to the excellent support offered to individual pupils. The work to enhance pupil performance and pupil wellbeing was evidenced. In addition, Governors also noted that the sports premium offered a superb variety of activities and sporting events for all to enjoy.

Activities, Events, Sports, Visits and Projects

Governors approved the broad programme of activities, educational visits and projects undertaken at the school. The Head Teacher regularly reports on activities regarding their purpose, benefit and impact, which is most helpful. It had been a very busy summer term, including two successful sports day events.

Special Awards - Engineering Competition

Once again, pupils at the school were involved in winning prestigious engineering awards, linked to the University of the West of England. A very special presentation was undertaken to recognise and celebrate award winning pupils and their parents/carers, with the whole school.

Teaching and Support Staff

Teaching and Support Staff have worked incredibly hard for all of the pupils this term. As well as the academic studies, there has been a wide range of enhanced enrichment of the curriculum for all pupils, via activities, events and educational visits. One teacher and one support staff member have both successfully secured a degree in Early Years Initial Teacher Training this year.

Governor involvement in the Life of the School

Governors are welcomed into the school for meetings, activities and events. It is always a pleasure to visit the school as Chair of Governors. During school visits I have the opportunity to speak with the senior leaders, teachers and support staff, together with the pupils and parents/carers which provides me with useful feedback on the work of the school.

2. School Site

The Site Manager continues to work incredibly hard to improve the school site for all at Walford and for this, we are most grateful.

3. Health and Safety,

Governors review pupil and staff health and wellbeing as part of its work. There is a named Health and Safety governor who, together with the Head Teacher, Site Manager and School Business Manager, report to the School Business Committee.

4. Community Involvement

‘Community Lunches’ and links with the Walford community and the local church continues to be an active focus at the school. There has also been liaison and involvement with partner primary and high schools. This year, the school’s ‘Monthly Chat’ community lunches and the exciting Ross Gazette Lottery Funded Archive history project has also been a huge success.

5. Governors - Summer Term - Update:-

Updated Declaration of Interests and signing in sheet.

Governors regularly review any declarations of interest. There were no changes or additions and the full information is available on the website.

Audit of Governor Skills and Annual Governor Review

Governors undertook a skills audit and also completed its Annual Governor Review. Governors had the opportunity to discuss key issues and make recommendations for future improvements, such as increasing the number of School Business Committee meetings. These recommendations will be actioned in the new academic year.

Governor Training and Development

Governors are members of the National Governance Association and are regularly updated on national governance key issues, via a weekly briefing. They also receive a most useful magazine called ‘Governing Matters.’ Governor training and development is also organised at the school by the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors. Courses are also available at county level. The Chair of Governors attends the termly briefing meetings arranged by the Herefordshire Council.

School Development Plan

The Vice Chair of Governors reviews the School Development Plan on a termly basis and provides feedback to senior leaders which is reported to the Governors. All was well, and no issues were raised.

New Handbook for Governance

The Clerk to Governors reported that a new DfE handbook for Governance had been produced and she signposted the document on the DfE website.

Governors Membership

Governors thanked Tim Murray for his excellent work as a Parent Governor. In addition, Melanie Coley and Eve Bound were also thanked for their excellent work as Associate Governors. Governors will be reviewing its membership in the Autumn term, in relation to an election for a parent governor to replace Tim Murray.

Finance and Budget

The current and projected budget were both in a positive state, as a result of the hard work of staff and governors. The School Business Committee continues to actively monitor and regularly review the progress of the budget and school funds. The School Business Committee regularly reports on financial matters to governors.

Pupils, Personnel and Community

The Head Teacher reported that the Staff Survey had been completed, and a report was in the process of being finalised. The Governors had considered the reports of the surveys from the pupils and the parents/carers and had discussed the results with the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher would be agreeing an

action plan in response to the staff surveys. The Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee had been actively involved in the recruitment of new staff at the school. All posts had been advertised. The staffing would be at full complement in readiness for September 2019.

Safeguarding and GDPR

The Vice Chair of Governors is the Safeguarding / GDPR link governor. She reported that there were no issues in relation to safeguarding or GDPR and that the school continue to receive advice and support on safeguarding and GDPR from Hoople services.

Standards, Teaching and Learning

Pupil performance data and excellent results had been reviewed and discussed by the committee. A letter from the Herefordshire Council had congratulated the school on yet another strong set of pupil results/performance at the school, which was wonderful news.

Project of the Walford Primary School Nursery.

Governors had agreed the overall strategy of a new nursery for the school. The Head Teacher had provided advice to Governors, and Governors approved the setting up of the new nursery in the Boynton Lodge. The school had undertaken publicity and had held some open events in order to publicise the new facility. In July, it was reported that the projected numbers were most encouraging. The School Business Committee would review the Nursery Plan, its budget and general oversight. Governors would also review governance structures in relation to performance and staffing.

PTFA

The PTFA do so much to support the work of the school and full programme of events. The Governors value and appreciate its excellent work and are most grateful to all involved.

Thanks

All in all, it has been a very productive meeting of Governors this term. I am hugely impressed with the quality of input from the governors of the school, all of whom, provide a very important 'critical friend' role.

At each Governor meeting, there is the opportunity to support, challenge and make recommendations for Full Governor consideration. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Governors for their commitment and dedication. Particular thanks to the Vice Chair and Chairs of Committees. I would also wish to thank our Clerk to Governors, for ably putting together all of the relevant paperwork, and for supporting all of the meetings of Governors.

Louise George, as Head Teacher, and all the teachers and support staff who complete 'Team Walford', undertake outstanding work, each and every day, in order to support all pupils which is much appreciated. I, personally, would like to thank them for all that they do to enhance and support the key message in our mission statement; 'Learning and Enjoyment...Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Day.' This, I know, is also much appreciated by parents, carers, pupils, governors and the local community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and thank you for your continued support of the school.

Paul

Paul Deneen - Chair of the Board of Governors