

Walford Nursery and Primary School Board of Governors
Chair of Governors Impact Statement - October 6th 2021

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 to be re-elected as Chair of Governors. He said he was delighted to also note that Emma Parkes was also re-elected as Vice Chair of Governors.

2. The Governors also 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 their declarations of personal and business interests. All governors also supported the National Governance Association's Code of Conduct.

3. The Chair of Governors reported that there had been a most productive discussion with the **School Improvement Adviser** (SIP) in relation to the Headteacher appraisal. More information would follow, once the report had been completed.

4. The Chair also reported on the **90th birthday celebration for Mrs Thomas MBE DL**, who as a governor had done so much for the school. Governors agreed to appoint her as the Patron for the school. Staff and pupils had produced a wonderful book of special memories which was presented with flowers and a container of plants for her birthday.

5. The Headteacher reported that an updated policy on **safeguarding** had been approved by Herefordshire Council and this, together with some Walford additions to the Policy for Child Protection and Safeguarding, would be recommended for the school's approval by the governors. Emma Parkes as vice chair of governors would continue to report on safeguarding matters. It was also noted that the school website was up to date.

6. A **School Improvement Plan (SIP) Summary** would be circulated for all governors, as would a full copy of the annual improvement plan itself.

7. The Governors had completed a **skills audit** based on the DFE's 6 Key Competencies, and had also discussed its overall membership. It was also agreed that:- **Emily Crew** would become a co-opted governor and would be vice chair of the School Business Committee.

Victoria Darrington would become vice chair of the Standards Teaching and Learning Committee. Neil Vanstone would act as Health, Safety and Wellbeing Governor. Eve Bound, the School's Business Manager, was appointed as an Associate Governor. The LEA Governor role was also discussed. A letter would be sent to the Herefordshire Council with a recommendation form for the current LEA Governor, which was supported by the Governors.

8. Paul Deneen - The 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.

9. Charlie Lawson - The 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 which would be meeting later in the term. Charlie would provide an updated report at the next full governing board meeting.

10. Governors had also received and agreed a copy of the school's **Risk Assessment Plan** in relation to COVID 19.

11. Emma Parkes, the Chair of the **Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee**, would be holding a meeting this term and would report back to governors at a later date. The SIP Adviser would provide a report on pupil performance and updates regarding Ofsted and curriculum development at the governors meeting in December.

12. Governors also agreed to review both its **SEND and More able and talented pupil provision and its pupil premium**. Emily and Paul would arrange to discuss key issues with the Headteacher and SENCo after half term and would report back to governors at the next meeting. Paul had noted that new guidance had been produced on pupil premium by the DfE.

13. There was discussion on **Governor training and development**. Information and briefings from the Local Authority, Herefordshire Governor's Association and the National Governance Association (NGA) and magazine/weekly briefing provided updated information. The Clerk would also advise governors of any local training courses available. In addition, 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, and would be a useful update for the chair the clerk and for governors.

14. The Parent, Teacher and Friends association (**PTFA**) continued to go from strength to strength. It was encouraging to note the excellent support which was received from parents/carers and it is greatly appreciated. A new committee had been set up and new fund raising ideas were being actioned.

15. The Governors received a report on the 'Remembrance, Reflection & Celebration Garden' in memory of former Governor Liz Boynton. Paul said that this area of the school would be of great benefit to both pupils and staff. The outdoor learning areas would therefore include 3 distinctive areas:- i) The 'Remembrance and Reflection Garden' ii) the Celebration and The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting area iii) The Forest School areas. The Chair of Governors said that he was most grateful to the school for their work and efforts regarding this programme of work/activity. It was hoped that more funding might become available to also support and further enhance this project.

16. The Headteacher reported on the results of the Staff survey. This was most positive and encouraging. The views and thoughts of staff were noted and would be actioned, as appropriate.

17. The Chair of Governors would meet with the School Council and would report back on 'Pupil Voice' issues. The Headteacher reported on the results from the SW England Primary Leaders Engineering Awards competition, as the school had some winners. A celebration report would be sent to the Ross Gazette.

18. 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.

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

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

21. The Chair finally thanked Louise George, Head Teacher, the SLT and overall Team Walford for their superb work, dedication and commitment at this particular time post the pandemic. Governors wished to thank them for the excellent work in supporting pupils, and also for all that they did to enhance enrich and support pupil's education on a daily basis. 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.'

Paul Deneen
Chair of the Board of Governors
09.10.2021