

Walford Nursery and Primary School Board of Governors Meeting

Tuesday, 23rd March at 6pm via zoom

Chair of Governors Impact Statement - Paul Deneen OBE JP DL

Introduction

A terrific amount of work was undertaken by Louise George - Headteacher and the Walford team to support the return of all pupils earlier in March. The feedback from the pupils and the parents/carers has been excellent. Huge thanks to all involved for making all the necessary arrangements for a very smooth return to school. Particular thanks to parents/carers for their support, and to the pupils for their assistance at this difficult time.

1. The Parliamentary Review - Education 2021 - Excellent Reading!

Walford Nursery and Primary School have recently appeared in this very important and prestigious national review. There is a most detailed and thoughtful report on the work of the school, during what has been one of the most difficult periods for schools in the school's history. The report captures the Walford 'can do' ethos and the school's vision of 'Learning and Enjoyment.....Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Day.'

The report also captures key strengths:

- the building of its strong team;
- its engaging curriculum;
- STEM promotion;
- collaboration and partnerships;
- awards and accolades.

<https://www.walfordprimaryschool.co.uk/the-parliamentary-review-2021/>

<https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/organisations/walford-nursery-and-primary-school>

2. Advice/Update from our School Improvement Adviser on the situation nationally.

Sarah Somers gave an excellent briefing to the Governors on the national situation, which included an update on Ofsted visits. Walford was inspected 4 years ago, and is therefore due an inspection. The school has gone from strength to strength since that time. Walford governors will review its governance and prepare itself for the next Ofsted visit. We had much to celebrate last time, let's hope we have even more to celebrate this time!

3. The School Business Committee - Support/Challenge Evidenced.

i) The Headteacher provided a comprehensive report for this committee. There were no issues at all with the school budget. A proposed new budget for 2021/22 will be discussed and agreed in May 2021. All policies for this committee were up to date.

ii) The School Financial Value Standard (SFVS) document is currently being drafted. This will be discussed by governors in May and sent on to the Herefordshire Council/ DFE as appropriate. The SFVS is a very useful and important document for the school and its overall governance and finances.

iii) There was a useful discussion on the Sports Premium (SP). The governors were pleased to note that the Hall equipment had now been updated. Staff had also been trained regarding PE. The pupils were able to access the Herefordshire 'virtual games' alongside dance, rugby (coaching provided by Worcester Warriors), 'mile a day,' cricket

specialist coaching provided by a specialist from Hereford Cathedral School, golf and yoga, together with timetabled PE activities.

iv) There was also an updated discussion on the impact of the Pupil Premium (PP) funding. Provision had been made for individual pupils in relation to therapies and iPads. There was also enhanced and enrichment provision for individual pupils who had eligibility for PP.

v) The Headteacher also reported that the possible further development of Walford Nursery would be discussed when more information was available.

4. The Standards Teaching and Learning Committee - Support/Challenge Evidenced

i) The Headteacher provided a comprehensive report for this committee. All policies were in place and were up to date.

ii) The key focus for the staff team is discussing the impact of the enforced school closures and how to 'make up' for lost learning. Currently, staff are undertaking curriculum prioritization and making intelligent decisions about the key aspects of learning required in order to ensure that every pupil is ready to progress in September 2021.

iii) Detailed information was provided regarding the support and interventions which were in place to provide high quality teaching and learning for all.

iv) Assessment and tracking mechanisms were in place for all pupils.

v) A considerable range of curriculum enrichment activities were evidenced for all year groups.

vi) All feedback had been incredibly positive, and no complaints had been received.

vii) Discussion took place on the Sports Premium and its impact. New equipment in the main hall had been well received, and staff training had been undertaken - all excellent.

viii) Discussion also took place about a potential local residential trip for pupils in Year 6 within the Forest of Dean. Governors were very supportive of this idea. Further information would be sought regarding latest DfE advice on educational trips/visits.

5. The Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee - Support/challenge Evidenced.

i) The Headteacher provided a comprehensive report for this committee. There were no issues or problems raised. All policies were in place and were up to date.

ii) There were no issues with safeguarding or GDPR. The Vice Chair of Governors would also review this area of activity early next term and provide an update.

iii) Staffing and personnel was discussed. Governors agreed that vacancies for the Administrative Assistant at the front office, two TA's and three teaching posts would be advertised internally. The Personnel Committee would interview and appoint staff following the interviews and advice from the Headteacher, the professional adviser to the governors on staff appointments.

iv) Pupil health and wellbeing was discussed. All pupils have received excellent support throughout the COVID 19 pandemic and staff have a keen focus on health and wellbeing since the full return of pupils in March.

v) There were no issues with school attendance.

vi) There were no equalities issues. The Chair and the SEND governor would review the school policy in relation to gifted and talented pupils, and report on this at the July meeting of governors.

vii) There was excellent evidence of parental and carer engagement.

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/walfordprimaryschoolrossonwye/UploadedDocument/5909ec0401934d76a1d993a899f19d5a/feb-2021-remote-learning-survey.pdf>

Parents' Evenings via zoom have been scheduled for April. Parents/carers will also receive an individual end of year report of progress and achievement for their child and be given the opportunity to discuss the report with the class teacher.

viii) Links with the community continue to be excellent and in particular, there has been some very positive feedback on the school's engagement with the Ross Parishes Lent Project.

ix) The 'Liz Boynton Garden Classroom Project,' was being discussed and planned.

6. Parents, Carers, Teachers and Friends Association

The school continues to receive active support from all parents/carers, and fund-raising opportunities are always well received by the school.

7. Governor Training and Development and Governors Skills Audit.

The governors had received an excellent national update from Sarah Somers (School Improvement Partner). All governors received the National Governance Association's (NGA) magazine. There are some short modular training courses available for governors. The Chair and the Clerk will review what is available and signpost this to governors. In addition, the Herefordshire Governors Association also provide support for governors. Newly appointed Governors have received a copy of the NGA's Governor's Handbook. A skills audit of governors and a review of governance will be undertaken in the summer term.

Conclusion

Huge thanks to Louise George, Headteacher, for her superb efforts at this very difficult time. Louise continues to provide inspirational leadership and the TEAM philosophy of **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore absolutely has shone through this period. I would like to take the opportunity of thanking her and her team of dedicated teaching and support staff for 'making a real difference' to all pupils. Parents and carers can be fully reassured that the school is doing its utmost to ensure that all pupils are achieving their very best through 'Learning and Enjoying - Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Day.' Governors approved a 'recovery day' for all staff, this was to reflect their amazing work over the past 12 months. Their work and efforts most certainly went above and beyond what was expected of them. They were an absolute credit to the school. I would also like to thank our Clerk to the Governors for the exemplary paperwork provided for our meetings. **All** of the governors provide an excellent input into the strategic oversight of the school, and for this I am most grateful. I thank them for their excellent efforts, and for their dedication and support at this difficult time.