

Walford Nursery and Primary School

Report of the Board of Governors meeting held on 10.02.2021 via Zoom

Chair of Governors Impact Statement - Paul Deneen - February 2021

1. Introduction

At the beginning of the spring term, the Government introduced another full countrywide lockdown. As Chair of Governors, I took the opportunity to thank Louise George (HT) and her team of staff for the outstanding support provided to all families, both at school and at home, at this very difficult time. The school did a superb job in ensuring that all involved with the school were fully briefed on the matter. The DFE had provided information on remote learning and had also revised its guidance on pupil attendance, key worker status and vulnerable pupils during the lockdown. As a result, there were more pupils identified who were eligible to attend school in January, compared to the first full lockdown in March 2020. In my view, the school took a sensible and pragmatic approach, and kept parents/carers informed on this important issue. I had spent some time in discussions with the HT in January 2021, and I circulated a briefing note on key findings to all governors. There were no issues of concern raised at that time.

2. Beginning of Spring Term - January 2021 and Covid-19 with update for March 2021

There was an unexpected and unusual start to the term, with a full national lockdown. The HT helpfully provided detailed information to parents/carers. Staff were all updated regarding the situation and with on-going developments. The school recommenced with some pupils being at school, and the majority being at home experiencing remote learning. The current information and position statement appears to suggest that there would be a full return to school on March 8th. Once confirmed, the school would be reviewing all advice and guidance, and would keep pupils, parents/carers informed of developments.

3. The HT provided detailed reports for each of the Governor Committees:-

a) Pupil's, Personnel and Community Committee

The HT reported on the updated guidance from the DFE. There were also some new policies and an updated home school agreement. 84 pupils were currently attending school under the critical workers/vulnerable categories. In order to ensure every child had full access to Walford's comprehensive remote home-learning offer, 10 iPads were on loan to families. The HT reported the findings of the Remote Home-Learning Parental/Carer and this feedback was regarded as being excellent. Staff training had also been undertaken on the first day back in January 2021. There was also an update on the Lateral Flow testing kits – all staff would have the opportunity to utilise this, twice weekly. There were no issues with staffing and despite the on-going difficulties caused by the enforced school closure, staff morale was good. It was pleasing to note that Walford's nursery was going from strength-to-strength. The interim front office and staff arrangements were in place, and were working well. The new SENCo had started and feedback was excellent.

b) School Business Committee

The HT reported on the additionally funded learning materials for pupils, both at school and for those pupils accessing remote home-learning. All was working well and staff were happy with the additional resources and training. Walford Nursery is currently full, with 32 on roll. Discussions will be taking place regarding possible future developments for the nursery. There are no issues with the school budget, all was well. The potential new intake of pupils for Class R in September 2021 were looking encouraging. The COVID-19 Risk Assessment had been updated, and there were no issues of concern noted.

c) Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee

The HT confirmed that the remote home-learning experience and learning in school was in line with DFE guidance. The feedback from the Parent/Carer Survey on the pupil learning experience was superb. Huge thanks to all involved in returning the surveys and for providing such positive feedback which confirms that the current home-learning offer is working well for all pupils and families. The school website is kept up to date. Training and resources for all staff have been updated, and more has been made available to staff to assist with the demands of the current challenges. There is a full range of support for pupils regarding mental health and wellbeing and the whole school community embraced National Mental Health Week. The School Improvement Adviser will provide a briefing and an update to Governors, on pupil data and pupil performance and changes to the Ofsted framework in March 2021. There were some excellent individual and group results in relation to the Herefordshire Maths Competition/s.

4. Future Dates and Meetings - March 2021

These were all in the school diary and committee meetings have all been arranged. In addition, there is a meeting with the School Improvement Adviser and a full governors meeting planned prior to the end of term.

5. Huge Thanks to Louise and 'Team Walford,' to Parents/Carers and Pupils and the Community.

As Chair of Governors, I have been hugely impressed with the quality of education being provided for all pupils at the school, whether at school or via the remote home-learning experience. With the current national lockdown in place, it has been an unprecedented time for all locally. Louise George has provided inspirational leadership at this very difficult time. Every member of staff - 'Team Walford' - have been superb in providing outstanding support to all of the pupils at Walford. I am also grateful to all parents/carers, pupils and the wider community for its support of the school. The Governors remain fully committed and dedicated to do their very best for the school. I am also grateful to the Clerk of the Governors for her help and support with all of our meetings. As you will be aware from the school website, we pride ourselves on being a TEAM because as such **Together Everyone Achieves More**. Parents/carers can be reassured that Louise and the team are doing their best to ensure that all pupils achieve by 'Learning and Enjoyment - Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Day.'

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this impact statement – it is much appreciated.

Paul Deneen OBE JP DL

Chair of Governors

February 2021