

Jessie Younghusband School

Governors' Impact Statement 2022/2023

The role of the Governing Body is an intrinsic part of the leadership of the school, although often unseen by parents and other community stakeholders. We are a group of dedicated volunteers with a wide range of expertise and experience on which to draw in order to support and ultimately hold the school accountable for the standard of education being provided to every child in our school.

The Government expects us, as your Governing Body, to be a dynamic group of highly skilled individuals who focus on supporting the Headteacher and all the staff to shape the strategic direction of the school. As Governors, we are accountable for the performance of our school; we are measured by three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure the budget is spent well.

Training

All members of the Governing Body have - and continue to have - significant training. The impact of this is that the Governing Body are kept abreast of their responsibilities regarding the latest requirements and expectations. Learning and actions from training is shared at Full Governing Body meetings.

Impact of Committee Meetings

Each term Governors are invited to attend three committees:

Resources Committee – Including Finance, Premises, Capital Projects, Health and Safety, Bench Marking, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and review of associated policies.

The Resources committee consider financial and premises issues. They ensure that the school budget is allocated appropriately and is well spent, by evaluating the impact of school spending on pupil outcomes in line with the schools improvement plan. Governors work closely with the Senior Leadership Team and the School Business Officer receiving regular updates and financial reports for consideration.

Staffing Committee – Including Headteacher Performance Management, overview of staff performance management, Staff Well-being, Staffing Structure, Staff training, Recruitment and review of associated policies.

Members of the Governing Body with expert assistance from a Local Authority educational advisor carry out the Headteacher Appraisal annually. The appraisal process allows us to look closely at the performance of the Headteacher, have discussions about areas of strengths and where necessary, areas for development. New targets are then set against criteria on which the Headteacher's performance will be evaluated.

Governors regularly join recruitment panels for all roles within the school.

Pupils, Learning and Teaching Including – Pupil Performance Data, Pupil Progress, Curriculum, Behaviour, Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Pupil Premium, Sports Premium and review of associated policies.

Progress and attainment data for all children across the school, including vulnerable groups, is analysed in this committee. Data is focused on reading, writing and maths. Analysis is done at varying levels across individual year groups, including, pupil premium expenditure outcomes, impact of SEN provision, provision for those children working at greater depth. The impact of this is that governors are aware of how children are performing and are able to where any issues may arise. Governors are encouraged to ask challenging questions to ensure that any identified problems are addressed in a timely manner. This ensures that the Governing Body are informed throughout the year on how progress towards the schools priorities and targets.

Governors are all familiar with a range of data which enable them to benchmark the school's performance against other similar schools and nationally.

Full Governing Body Board Meetings

A Full Governing Body meeting is held once a term. All governors are expected to attend having read the minutes from the various above-mentioned committees prior to these meetings in order to be able to ratify any decisions or raise questions where necessary. The Headteacher's report is also presented at these meeting which includes feedback on:

- Pupil numbers and attendance;
- Complaints;
- Exclusions;
- Discipline;
- Staffing;
- Health and Safety;
- Safeguarding;
- School Improvement;
- Pupil progress and attainment.

In Addition,

Governors may also attend monitoring visits at the school in the form of pupil book reviews and pupil progress meetings. Each governor is allocated an area of special responsibility to monitor which are broadly parallel in scope to the “subject leadership” roles undertaken by teaching staff.

The impact of this is that governors gain a valuable insight into daily school life, enabling them to assess the strengths and weaknesses in teaching and the implementation of school policies. It raises the profile of the governors within the school community and facilitates communication between, governors, staff and pupils.

What Have We Done?

- Attended meetings in person and virtually;
- Been instrumental in the setting and monitoring of the school budget;
- Ensured the school finances remain healthy;
- Been involved in setting the school development plan;
- Been involved in pupil data and book reviews and attending Local Authority visits relating to this;
- Recruited staff;
- Attended school council meetings in order to hear the pupil's voice;
- Handled complaints in accordance with policy;
- Reviewed policies;
- Maintained an overview of the management of Health and Safety, SEND and safeguarding in the school;
- Recruited new governors;
- Worked with County Councillors, Local MP and WSCC Director of Education and other outside agencies on behalf of the school when necessary;
- Assisted with school trips.