

Governors Impact Statement



The board of Governors has three core functions:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.**
2. **Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff.**
3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

The entire work of the Board of Governors is focused on meeting the requirements of these functions. The outcome is that the Board knows the school well, is confident that all statutory/legal requirements are met, ensures issues within school are addressed in an effective manner and contributes to a strategic plan with key priorities for the school to be effective in the long term.

Background

The past year has seen significant change – a new Head of School, Executive Principal, Chair of Governors, Vice Chair and several new Trust Appointed Governors.

- Undertook a governance review and audited skills to develop a strong team
- Created a Governance Action Plan for the Year.
- Created a Code of Conduct (not previously in existence).
- Updated the website and created Governor Newsletters to better communicate with parents/carers.
- Ensure all meetings properly captured in minutes with challenge / support evidenced throughout.
- Training programme in place through The Heath Family MAT and Knowsley Local Authority which has upskilled members.
- Link governors set up to ensure focus and communication on key areas as critical friends.
- The Governor visits are part of monitoring of the SDP.
- Greater presence in school and at school events to improve visibility and availability of Governors.
- Reports on Attendance CEIAG, SEND, Safeguarding and Pupil Premium reflect the focus points, evidence considered and questions for SLT to triangulate monitoring.

Strategies, Vision and Direction

- School vision, aims and value statements have been created and are embedded across school, checked through observation and discussion with staff.
- SDP monitored regularly with precise questioning.
- Challenged SLT on attendance, curriculum and data.
- Received external reports from external reviews to update knowledge of department performance. Gives knowledge of strengths and weaknesses.
- Regular Headteacher report provides a regular snapshot of the school and is challenged accordingly.
- Addressed issue of cost of buses (£150,000/£170,000) through a Risk Assessment discussion of possible outcomes.

Improvements

- Attendance has increased and PA has decreased by 6.7%.
- Additional staff in the attendance team.
- Curriculum is more robust in the planning and fulfilling requirements.
- External reviews have been acted on in terms of Middle Leader and Directorship appointments.
- Governors have supported the work of the Pathway to Success Project and a new Academy Improvement Partner.
- Behaviour Panels have taken place to support Yr10 student behaviour improvement.
- Trust Finance Personnel have been questioned directly on the school position and decisions taken.
- Minutes show Governor's request and use of evidence to drive priorities.
- Five Governors have links as Critical Friends to SEND, CEIAG, Attendance and Safeguarding, PP and Wellbeing. They produce Link Governor Reports which pose questions for SLT.
- Following presentations on PP, Governors understand the impact of funding on pupil performance and held SLT to account for its use.
- The Governors upheld a decision to withdraw school buses which releases funds for intervention and an extra-curricular programme to be put in place.
- Following discussion on progress data, clarity was asked on key issues / evidence and posed queries for further development / implications.
- Particular focus on Ofsted points.
- The school is now fully staffed and the new intake for Year 7 is 186.

Ofsted March 2019: *"Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Governing Body show that they ask probing questions and challenge senior and middle leaders, particularly about the impact of their actions"*