



Annual Governors Report 2023-2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We, the School Governing Board of, are pleased to present our Annual Governance Statement for the academic year 2023-2024. This statement outlines our commitment to effective governance and provides an overview of our achievements, challenges, and plans for the future.

Introduction:

As a governing board, our primary responsibility is to ensure the strategic direction and effective management of the school. We work closely with the school leadership team and staff to maintain high standards of education, student welfare, sound financial planning and community engagement. The board of governors is not responsible for the day-to-day operational delivery of the school. Improvement and Delivery Plan (SIDP) in school but provides support and guidance when requested by the school leadership.

Attendance at Full Governing Body

Governor	10 Oct	5 Dec	13 Feb	19 Mar	21 May	16 July
Marsha Parker - CoG	/	/	/	/	/	/
Emily Davidson – Clerk	/	/	Ap	/	/	/
Claire Chapman - Headteacher	/	/	/	/	/	/
Lee Whitby – Staff Governor	/	/	Res			
Chelsea Middleton – Parent Governor		/	/	Ap	X	Res
Darleen Grimsby- Co-opted Governor	Ap	/	/	Ap	Ap	/
Judith Leigh - Co-opted Governor	/	Ap	/	/	/	Res
Anna Hamilton - Co-opted Governor	/	/	Ap	/	Ap	/
Matthew Jordan – Parent Governor		/	/	/	/	/
Natasha Scott – Staff Governor			/	/	/	/
Kathryn Arnold – Substitute Clerk			/			
Additional Invitees						
Donna Southon	/					
Samina Asif		/				
Lyndsey Whiting			/			
Rosie Mulligan						/



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Training Undertaking by the Governors

Here is a sample of the training undertaken by our current governors during the last academic year. All Governors complete Safeguarding training. New Governors undertake an induction provided by the Norfolk Governance Service. Those Governors that are concerned with monitoring Finance undertake training online and in person so that they are aware of how to recognize discrepancies in budget plans etc. All governors want to ensure that the school budget reflects positive outcomes in education provision. For instance, if money is spent on science equipment, how does the children's learning reflect this expense.

- Governor Induction, Roles and Responsibilities, Safeguarding
- Governor Visits, SEND – Governors role ,
- Introduction to School Finance, Finance Governor Induction, Pupil Premium
- Maximising the impact of PE and Sports Premium,
- Cyber Security for School Staff, Cyber Crime
- Exclusions Refresher Training, Head Teacher Performance Management Ofsted for Governors

Achievements

Over the past year, we have accomplished several key milestones:

- The Health and Safety Executive's checklist for classrooms has been used to help ensure that the school premises provide a healthy and safe place for all who use them, including the school workforce, visitors and pupils. We feel that the school has become a pleasant environment for children and staff. We have authorised expenditure on improving the school environment, decorating, educational murals . Outdoor equipment had been replaced.
- Utilities, fuel is eco compliant, meaning that fuel bill can be reduced enabling funds to be spent on education resources.
- Collaborating with the school leadership team to develop and embed a whole school progressive curriculum that aligns with the school's vision and values. School Governors have spent time engaging with Subject leaders to understand the curriculum and syllabus, monitor this in the classroom and evaluate learning outcomes. Monitoring and evaluating the school's performance against set target and implementing measures to improve outcomes.
- Ofsted: At the end of the 23/24 Academic year the chair of Governors three governors met with the Ofsted Inspector who was assured that the present Governing board were active in the strategic oversight of the school's day to day and planned operations. We are very proud to have supported the head teacher and all staff in receiving a "Good" Ofsted.
- Implementing robust policies and procedures to ensure a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students.
- Providing support and guidance to the headteacher and staff in their continuous professional development.
- Engaging with parents and the wider community whenever possible at school events.
- Managing the school's finances responsibly, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently to benefit all students.

Challenges

While we have achieved significant progress, we have also encountered challenges. These include strategies to overcome:

- Adapting to the 'hangover' brought about by the global pandemic and ensuring the



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continuity of education for our students.

- Addressing budget constraints from government and local authority and making decisions to ensure the school's financial sustainability
- Pupil attendance, punctuality and unauthorized absence, intervention and funding for individual pupils' special needs.
- Encouraging teaching that stretches the able child to greater achievement.
- The continual challenge of recruiting Board of Governor members as tenures come to their natural conclusion and/or external pressures demand more attention from governors.

Future Plans:

Looking ahead, we have identified the following areas of focus for the upcoming year:

- The Library. This is an exceptional space that needs a total overhaul, carpets, shelving, roof repairs, renewal of books and possibly recruitment of a voluntary librarian role. A whole school project that could lead to a love of reading and a place to gain specific knowledge.
- Continually enhancing the quality of teaching and learning by providing professional development opportunities for staff and implementing innovative teaching methodologies.
- Strengthening partnerships with parents and the wider community to promote a collaborative and supportive school environment.
- Monitoring our financial strategy to ensure the school's sustainability and maximize the impact of resources.
- Reviewing and updating policies and procedures to reflect changes in legislation and best practices.
- Increasing the size of the board and broadening diversity whenever possible.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of our governance practices to ensure transparency and accountability.

Your Role:

As parents and guardians, your partnership with us is crucial to the success of our school. We encourage you to actively engage with us, attend school events, and provide feedback and suggestions.

We have two already but we do need more parents on the Board of Governors. Together, we can create an exceptional learning experience for our students. We welcome associate Governors, a less demanding role.

In conclusion, the School Governing Board, are dedicated to promoting the highest standards of governance and improving educational outcomes for every student at Watlington Community Primary school. We remain committed to our responsibilities and look forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to achieve our shared Vision and Aims for the school. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,