

Belgrave Primary School is fortunate to have a highly skilled and committed governing board that gets involved in the life of the school at all levels. They ensure that the school is properly managed in a way which conforms to the ethos of the school and always puts the interests of the children first. They support the Headteacher and staff with the management of the school and in establishing and maintaining high standards of education and behaviour. They meet termly as a full governing board and in committees for Curriculum and Ethos and for Operations.



This statement describes the many ways in which they have provided support and had a positive impact on the school over the last year, which has still been a challenging year for the school due to the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The impacts focus on the three core functions of governance:

- 1) To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- 2) To hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school, its pupils and the performance management of staff; and
- 3) To oversee the financial performance of the school and to make sure its money is spent in the best way possible.

This statement summarises their positive contributions from the following perspectives:

- Curriculum and Ethos;
- Health and Safety;
- Wellbeing;
- Operations;
- Adapting to academisation and being part of The Learning Trust; and
- The proposed expansion to a new site at Kings Moat Garden Village.

CURRICULUM AND ETHOS

Here is a summary of the following ways in which governors have provided support and had a positive impact on the school from a Curriculum and Ethos perspective:

- Challenging and questioning pupil progress data;
- Updates on this data were received over the course of the two years during meetings;
- Kept attendance at the top of the agenda with parents;
- School policies particular to the Curriculum and Ethos Committee had been reviewed and challenged by the Governing Board and updated accordingly, including the Virtual Meeting Policy;

- Governors had then adopted school policies ensuring the school sticks to a good quality curriculum and pupil safety;
- The termly Headteacher reports were reviewed and challenged appropriately by the Board;
- Governors completed focused visits to school. These visits help them give detailed feedback aimed at further improving the school;
- Reviewed and agreed the latest School Development Plan priorities;
- Agreed to recommend to the full board how to allocate Department for Education (DfE) catch-up funding;
- PE guidance provided to PE Lead;
- Governors had met with staff virtually and provided an update on Pupil Premium, Sports Premium and Curriculum;
- Governors were confident that SEND pupils were tracked and supported;
- Governors requested School Bus and ASP access;
- Governors had arranged a workshop on the Ofsted framework;
- Curriculum Link Governor had visited school and liaised with the maths subject leader;
- Considered budget implications of staffing and resources;
- Governor attended training and regularly liaised with the Religious Education (RE) subject leader to plan the curriculum;
 - Thorough review of the complaints policy in detail with Headteacher. Governors felt it was a robust and useful process;
 - Governor attendance at SEND Training for Governors;
 - Risk assessments continued to be reviewed and questioned;
 - DfE Catch up funding had been analysed;
 - Questions and challenge on recovery curriculum;
 - Discussion of longer-term planning and behaviour strategies;
 - Chair was in regular contact with the Headteacher;
 - Link governor for Pupil Premium visited the school to review Pupil Premium and compiled a report based on that visit which was shared with other governors;
 - Link governor for the Curriculum had reviewed the curriculum with school Curriculum lead. They had reviewed topics books which showed clear progression through the years. Governor commented that pupils had a sense of pride in their work and was impressed by the pupils' immersion in the curriculum and involvement;
 - Link governor had spoken to Curriculum Lead about the next steps for assessment in foundation subjects;
 - A governor volunteers and helps out in the Year 6 class every Tuesday which they had done for years which was appreciated by staff.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Here is a summary of the following ways in which governors have provided support and had a positive impact on the school from a Health and Safety perspective:

- Dedicated Health and Safety Governor who has attended Health and Safety training;
- Governors ensured that Health and Safety remained a priority and received regular updates on the latest guidance from the Headteacher and Clerk;
- Health and Safety issues had been identified and addressed, creating a safer environment for children to learn in.
- Link governor for Health and Safety had reviewed the Health and Safety work that had been completed;
- Governors ensured the school was Health and Safety compliant.

WELLBEING



Here is a summary of the following ways in which governors have provided support and had a positive impact on the school from a Wellbeing perspective:

- Governors were provided with an update on staff and pupil wellbeing;
- Link Governor for Mental Health was proposed;
- Mental health and wellbeing of staff and pupils was discussed;
- Governor support was given on several sensitive matters that had occurred during the past three years;
- Governors considered the responses from the staff questionnaire;
- The Wellbeing Policy was agreed and adopted;
- Governors responding quickly and working together as a team to support the school provided a lot of reassurance to staff.

OPERATIONS

Here is a summary of the following ways in which governors have provided support and had a positive impact on the school from a Finance and Resources perspective:

- Governors had scrutinised the budget, requested additional figures and asked challenging questions;
- Governors had changed the process of how they monitored budget to meet the requirements of the new SFVS;
- Governors had attended training and provided feedback to the committee. This ensured compliance and held staff and leaders to account;
- Governors recommended that a strategic review on sources of income was required;

- Governors agreed to using Governor Hub and are now fully utilising it;
- The use of Governor Hub has made the board more effective and efficient. The system enables Governors to easily share information, post comments and resolve matters in a much shorter timeframe;
- Governors had reviewed and agreed school policies particular to the F&R Committee, including the Virtual Meeting Policy;
- Governors ensured that the SFVS was submitted before the deadline;
- Governors involved in the recruitment process for a new School Bursar and involved in facilitating a smooth transition;
- The risk assessment had been thoroughly integrated by the Board;
- Considered vacancies and skill gaps on the board which need to be addressed;
- DfE catch up allocation agreed;
- Governors had discussed a wider strategic review of the Board to share the workload. The board needed to ensure that they had a structure in place that was built for the future and fit for purpose;
- Robust review of the finances;
- Discussed income options;
- Marketing of wrap around care with the view of increasing income;
- Challenged on broadband prices;
- Budget included a long-term strategy and planning ahead;
- Governors had provided support relating to staffing changes;
- Governors had assisted with the recruitment of the SMO;
- Chair's attendance at Local Authority Budget Meetings;
- Review of GDPR ensures security of pupil and staff information;
- Reviewed the risk register;
- Streamlining processes in line with recent training;
- Consideration of Committee structures to ensure efficacy;
- Finance governor had visited school to perform School Financial Value Statement (SFVS) checks in October;
- A governor had been in school for the whole day on 9th November 2021 on Governor day and commented that it had been a joy. The governor reported that pupils had been open, welcoming and happy to ask questions;
- Governors were thanked for coming into school on Governor Day and for the videos on Class Dojo. Governors had joined Year 6 for an interview. The Headteacher commented that pupils loved having Governors in school and encouraged them to come in.



POST-ACADEMISATION GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Belgrave converted to academy status and joined The Learning Trust on 1st December 2021.

- An Ofsted training session had taken place for Governors. The Headteacher thanked Governors for giving up their time to attend the training evening, she found it reassuring that Governors knew school so well and were supportive;
- The IT governor updated the Governor section of the website to reduce staff workload which was appreciated;
- Governors had reviewed link Governor roles in terms of the support the trust now provided and agreed that GDPR, H&S and Finance link governors were no longer required;
- The Trust also confirmed that there would be no requirement to complete a SFVS for the LA for the period from April 2021 to 30th November 2021;
- We are delighted to report that a new parent governor, Linsey Carroll, was appointed to the Board at the summer term LGB meeting in June 2022. Welcome Linsey!
- No skills gaps were identified following a recent governor skills gap audit;
- In response to the fact that the Finance, Health and Safety, IT, HR, Payroll and Compliance functions are now centrally managed and administered by The Learning Trust, governors resolved at the Summer term LGB meeting in 2022 to streamline the Board's meeting structure by dissolving the two committees and moving to holding two full LGB meetings per term, instead of one full LGB meeting and two committee meetings per term; one full LGB meeting to be held in the first half of term and the other in the second half of term;
- As part of a succession planning strategy, the Chair encouraged governors to contact her if they were interested in taking on the role of Chair of the Governing Board and to liaise with her so this could be further discussed and explored at future LGB meetings.



PROPOSED EXPANSION TO SATELLITE SITE IN KINGS MOAT

We are delighted to report that Belgrave has been awarded Preferred Bidder status in the bid for the new satellite school which will be built in Kings Moat Garden Village off Wrexham Road.

Governors have been supporting the school with the proposed expansion by:

- Reviewing and offering feedback on the Expression of Interest documents and other relevant documents required in the process;
- Attending the Consultation meetings regarding the proposal both in person and online;
- Talking to parents and the wider Belgrave community and answering their queries about the proposed expansion;
- Liaising with and meeting key stakeholders in the process when required.