

Jessie Younghusband School

Governors Impact Statement

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 Manager, receiving regular updates and financial reports for consideration.

Staffing Committee – Including Headteacher Performance Management, overview of staff performance management, Staff Well Being, Staffing Structure, 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 and 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.

In addition, Governors may also attend monitoring visits at the school in the form of:

- Governors Visit days;
- Pupil Book Reviews;
- Pupil Progress Meetings.

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.

Governors Impact Sept 2019 to date.

Due to Covid 19 and the associated disturbances in normal school life, it has been an unusual year. There has been plenty of new ground to cover and new skills to learn.

Governors have had to adapt their approach to meetings, mastering Zoom and Teams to ensure that everyone kept in touch.

What have we done?

- Attended meetings, in person and virtually;
- Instrumental in the setting and monitoring of the school budget. Ensuring the school's finances remain healthy;
- Involved in setting and reviewing the school development plan. This has required modification due to Lockdown;
- Involved in pupil data and book reviews and attending Local Authority Advisor visits relating to this. Currently focusing on how the school will approach closing any gaps after Lockdown;
- Consulted over the schools Covid Risk Assessment and ongoing modification;
- Consulted on staff welfare and delivery of home learning;
- Made decisions on reopening school after Lockdown;
- Recruitment of several new members of staff;
- Involved in agreeing temporary restructure of Senior Leadership Team;
- Successfully led a recruitment campaign for new Headteacher for Sept 2021;
- Attended school council meetings in order to hear the pupils' voice;
- Handled complaints under the school's policy;
- Review of policies;
- Maintaining an overview of the management of Health and Safety, SEND and Safeguarding in the school.