



Governor annual statement and impact report 2017-18

The main focus for our Governing Body is to ensure that our children are happy and safe in school and make at least good progress. For this to happen, the children must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, competent and motivated staff, working together within a safe, supportive environment.

Governors appreciate that it is their role to ensure that the needs of parents, carers and children are fully met, and the schools meets all of its statutory duties. To achieve these objectives Governors must continually evaluate the role they have played within the life of the schools and their impact on school development. This statement and report look back on the 2017/18 school year and forms a part of that evaluation.

School Development Plan

Governors work co-operatively with the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher in the writing and monitoring of the School Development Plan. The plan sets out the school's priorities; identified from data analysis, school self-evaluation and OFSTED priorities. The Governors agreed the plan at a Full Governing Body Meeting.

Each Governor monitors an element of the plan in detail, visiting the school to see changes in action, reporting back impact and progress to the Governing Body.

The School Development Plan was also reviewed each term in a Whole Governing Body meeting and a report on progress was given each term in the Head Teachers Report to Governors.

<p>Impact: Governors are able to hold leaders to account and understand how the school is improving.</p>

Achievement of children

Progress and attainment data for all children across the school is carefully analysed by the Leadership Team. The Governors receive an update report, by cohort on progress across the school each term.

Governors are familiar with the ASP data which enables them to benchmark the school's performance against similar schools both locally and nationally. The Governors are also received a termly report from our School Standards and Excellent officer from Suffolk County Council.

Governors pay particular attention to how the Pupil Premium and Sports Premium monies are spent. Vulnerable children are tracked to make sure they are achieving in line with expected progress.

Impact: Governors know how well groups of children across the school are performing; where we feel there are issues we ask challenging questions to ensure that any identified problems are addressed.

Governor Visits

Governor's visit the school as part of their monitoring of the School Development Plan.

Impact: The visits are considered a valuable opportunity for Governors to be able to work closely with staff members and gain a clear picture of teaching and learning in action.

The visits give Governors insight and firsthand knowledge enabling us to provide support and challenge and to ensure that we are satisfied that children are well taught, enjoying learning and are making good progress.

Governors spent time in classes and taking the opportunity to see new initiatives in action, talking with staff, parents and pupils about the school.

Governors also monitored the provision for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) to ensure their needs are being met and they are making progress. The SEND Governor has met with the SENCO on a number of occasions to look closely at provision for children with SEN. The SEND governor then reports back to the Governing Body.

Governors are better informed, knowledge is shared amongst the FGB, so all governors are better briefed. Stronger relationships between staff and governors as they are much more visible. Governors more able to see and understand the needs of the school.

Staff recruitment

The Governors were involved in the recruitment and selection of staff.

Impact: This helps to ensure that high quality staff who share the school's values, ethos and aims are appointed.

A safe and supporting environment

Governors are frequently in school so can see the behaviour of children, how polite and well behaved they are. Visitors and new staff often comment on this and the last OFSTED report have marked the school as "good". The school uses questions from the DFE Parent View questionnaire to find out their views, the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

An external review of Safeguarding was carried out in June 2018 the school was marked as outstanding in this area.

Behaviour forms a significant portion of the School Development Plan alongside teaching and attainment. It is closely monitored by the Governors and we are aware and can

question the strategies the Head and Deputy headteacher put in place to ensure safety and good behaviour.

Policies and significant decisions related to behaviour and safeguarding are reviewed by the Governors frequently and carefully.

Attendance at school, lateness and levels of exclusions are all regularly monitored by Governors and consistently fall below national levels.

Each term premises Governors carry out a monitoring exercise and learning walk specifically related to Health and Safety and the school environment.

We are fortunate to have the Deputy Headteacher of East Bergholt High School who is nominated as the Safeguarding Governor who reviews policy, procedure and practice on behalf of the Governing Body.

All Governors are required to take Safeguarding training and our Link Governor who is responsible for training matters ensure that this is carried out.

Impact: The FGB is fully informed of all monitoring activities and the results. It gives both the governors and the Head and Deputy Head teacher more confidence that Safeguarding is being done to the best of our ability and the children are as safe as we can make them. Governors are up to date with current thinking on Safeguarding and best practice.

Governor meeting attendance

The Head and Chair regularly meet to discuss governance and school related matters. There are three formal meetings of the Governing Body each year. Committees also meet once per term. Governor attendance is very good, and any absence is fully explained and is normally accepted by the Governing Body.

Impact: Governors are fully engaged with the running of the school, take their role seriously and are up to date with the development plan at all times.

Policies

Governors review policies on a programmed basis to ensure that all policy and procedures/guidance is up to date. The Governors ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list.

Impact: Governors help to make sure that the school is well run, discuss good practice and that policies reflect the ethos of the school.

Financial management

The Finance and Personnel Committee meet each term with our Finance Officer to discuss budget issues and make spending decisions. Our financial procedures have been rigorously monitored and we have achieved the Schools Financial Value Standard.

Impact: Governors know that the budget is well managed, and all monies are spent wisely.

Governor training and development

Impact: Governors regularly undertake training to understand latest changes, new ways of working and refresh their skills.

An individual skills review takes place in each Summer term.

The Head and Chair review The Knowledge (Suffolk County Council's update bulletin) on a half-termly basis. All Governors receive a copy of the Knowledge.

Future and continuous improvement

Ongoing and future areas for improvement and developing will include:

- Continued improvement in pupil progress and attainment including vulnerable groups
- Supporting the senior leadership team in developing an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum
- Better communication from the Governing Body to parents
- Providing more opportunity for parents to meet with members of the Governing Body
- Publishing an Annual Statement of Governance
- Looking at opportunities for external reviews of the Governing body but also in other areas within the school

Ahead of us is another busy year for Governors and we will continue to work hard to ensure that the teaching, learning and safety of our children is central to all that we do.

Helen Armstrong
Chair of Governors

November 2018