

Sauncey Wood Governing Board Impact Statement 2018/19

The Role of the Governing Board

The Governing Board is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers (parents, teachers and members of the local community and the Local Authority) who use our skills and interests to support and work with the Headteacher in managing the school, with the purpose of improving the educational outcome of every child in our school. As Governors we are accountable for the performance of our school, and we are measured by three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure the money is spent well

The governors monitor and evaluate the school's progress by regularly reviewing key aspects of school life and performance – from pupil progress and absences, to budget, facilities, resources, health and safety, long-term strategy and ethos.

This impact statement is one way in which the Governing Board articulates our role in school leadership, records the impact we have had on school improvement, and ensures transparency of our activities.

School Development Plan (SDP) Priorities 2018/19

Using guidance from the most recent Ofsted inspection, our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP), and their own expertise, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) set the following priorities for the year:

1. For all disadvantaged pupils (and) boys we are going to improve attainment (more at ARE) and progress (more making sig+ progress¹) in RWM²
2. For all children we are going to develop and instil a love and understanding of writing, resulting in more children to be working at greater depth (GDS).
3. For children in receipt of PPG³ we are going to improve their attendance at school so it is in line with their peers

The Governors monitor these priorities throughout the year, but also use them and our three core strategic functions to create our own Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the year, against which we can track and record the impact we have on the outcomes of children at the school.

¹ Significant Positive Progress, the highest level of progress on a scale used by many Herts schools

² Reading, writing and maths

³ Pupil Premium Grant – a grant made to the school to support disadvantaged pupils

Governor Key Performance Indicators Activity 2018/19

1. Improve writing standards (including disadvantaged boys)

a) Outcome

- Writing Data has improved in quality and scope.
- The HIP (Hertfordshire Improvement Partner) view was that this is the best writing she has seen at the school to date.
- PPG children have shared work in assembly.

b) Activity

- Carried out termly visits with the subject leader, including pupil voice which showed how enthusiastic and engaged the children are with writing.
- Miss Harkness has provided great subject leadership and support to other teachers.
- Monitored reading improvement through the School Improvement Committee (SIC), looking at data and asking searching questions.

2. Improve Pupil Premium and disadvantaged boy's attendance

a) Outcome

- Attendance out-performed their peers if one pupil's attendance was discounted.
- Academic progress of these children has improved, which can only happen with good attendance.

b) Activity

- Monitored attendance through Head Teacher reports and performed termly visits.
- Ensured the school actively manages attendance (Mr Lloyd monitors directly and the office team makes regular contact with families).

3. Ensure the school is managed within an acceptable budget envelope

a) Outcome

- School budget set and adhered to
- Budget minimised the use of surplus funds for the Academic Year
- No major changes to school structure or staffing
- School has an improved understanding of the budget and the budget processes

b) Activity

- Conducted a lengthy budget review with the school
- Reviewed the impact of reducing Primary School pupil numbers across Harpenden
- Helped with the school marketing activity to ensure pupil numbers were maintained as far as possible.

Governing Board Key Performance Indicators for 2019/20

1. Ensuring the long-term financial stability of the school

• Outcome

- Review will take place in September 2020

• Proposed Activity

- a. Marketing at Full Governing Board (FGB) level
- b. Considering future options / structure – training and workshop - January
- c. Budget management and updates – Resources committee

2. Ensure the new Ofsted framework is effectively implemented and has the intended impact.

- **Outcome**
 - Review will take place in September 2020
- **Proposed Activity**
 - a. Ensure Intent, Implementation, Impact are managed and monitored
 - b. Implement subject links – non-core subjects & reading

3. Monitor the attainment and progress of disadvantaged children.

- **Outcome**
 - Review will take place in September 2020
- **Proposed Activity**
 - a) Monitoring Data
 - b) Meetings with SenCo (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator)
 - c) Pupil Progress meetings
 - d) Reviewing Head's reports.

Other GB Activity 2018/19

1. The Governors undertook a range of Training including

- a. Safer recruitment
- b. Parental engagement
- c. Strategy and succession planning

2. Governors attended Full Governing Board Meetings with the objective of :

- a. Understanding and gaining knowledge regarding areas of strength and concern across the school. Providing appropriate strategic support and challenge to ensure strengths can be built upon and concerns addressed with appropriate resourcing and support.
- b. Receiving reports regarding current school snapshot (Head's Report), safeguarding, PPG, SEN⁴, Sports Premium, CLA⁵, staff well-being, parent survey results, website and other policy compliances. Reviewing these reports, ask challenging questions and ensuring that any identified concerns are able to be addressed in a timely manner.
- c. Monitoring the whole school Risk Register.

3. Governors attended the Resources meetings with the objective of:

- a. Budget planning, ratification and management.
- b. Ensuring compliance with the Financial Procedures Manual.
- c. Monitoring health and safety across the school.
- d. Ensure completion of the SFVS⁶ and financial benchmarking exercises.
- e. Consider applications for pay progression, ratify new pay bands / awards.

⁴ Special Educational Needs

⁵ Children Looked After

⁶ Schools Financial Values Standard

- f. Reviewing GDPR⁷ compliance

4. Governors attended the School Improvement meeting with the objective of:

- a. Monitoring progress of the SDP priorities.
- b. Analysing data and ask challenging questions to ensure that any apparent concerns regarding progress and attainment are known, understood and addressed. Ratifying data targets.
- c. Understanding what monitoring systems are in place, ensuring they are effective and supporting improvement in teaching and learning practice.
- d. Considering HIP reports and ensure that action plans are in place to address any areas of concern.

5. Head Teacher's Performance Management

The Governors participated in setting the key objectives for the head teacher and then monitoring performance against these objectives

6. Safeguarding

The Governors elected a responsible person for Safeguarding and carried out reviews and examined reports including SCR⁸ and Pupil and Staff Voice exercises

7. Marketing

The Governors helped define the marketing activity required by the school to maintain pupil numbers. They supported marketing exercises and bought new skills into the school such as a Facebook specialist

8. Governor Profile

The Governors undertook a range of activity to try and improve their visibility to parents / carers including publishing a section in the fortnightly school newsletter and attendance at more school events.

⁷ General Data Protection Regulations

⁸ Single Central Record of recruitment and vetting checks