

Governing Body Statement (Jan 2016 – December 2016)

The Core Functions of the Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Key issues that have been addressed by the Governing Body (Jan 2016 – Dec 2016):

- Promoting School Aims and Ethos
- Progress of School Development Plan Priorities
- Development of Senior Leadership / Middle Leadership and succession planning
- The long-term strategic direction regards 2 Tier education.
- Monitoring the impact of the New Curriculum and assessment framework
- Governing Body effectiveness and engagement with stakeholders

The Governing Body have responded to these issues by:

- Reviewing the School Aims and impact of the Values education programme.
- Approving the implementation of Golden Rules (Whole School Rules) and revised Behaviour Policy to support the Values education and School Aims.
- Reviewing and updating School Policies regularly.
- Reviewing the School Development Plan, agreeing the priorities for the following year and monitoring progress through school visits and meetings.
- Reviewing the School Leadership structure implemented in Sept 2015 and responding to the developing role of the Assistant Head Teachers.
- Reviewing the administrative support capacity available for School Leadership and subsequently appointing a PA to the Head Teacher.
- Supporting staffing structure changes and strategies to support school development.
- Agreeing the strategic direction of the school - changing the age range from 4 – 9 to 4 – 11 with effect from September 2017. Consultation Report (Jan 2016)
- Working closely with stakeholders to secure appropriate accommodation and facilities to support the development of Camestone as a Primary.
- Appointing a Bedford Borough Consultant to support the Leadership Team with a focus on reviewing strategies, structures and systems that support school development.
- Reviewing the School Leadership structure and subsequently appointing a Deputy Head Teacher commencing January 2017.
- Appointing the Assistant Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher as Associate Governors.
- Monitoring the impact of the new curriculum and the new assessment framework through school visits and meetings.
- Improving the regular programme of governor visits by focussing on School Development Plan Priorities and sharing the reports with all members of the Governing Body.
- Continuing to develop the termly Governors Newsletter to Parents.
- Implementing and monitoring the Review of Governance Action Plan for 2015/16.
- Annually reviewing:
 - The appointment of Chair and Vice Chair to Full Governing Body and Committees.
 - The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Full Governing Body, Finance Personnel and Buildings Committee and Pay Committee.
 - The Governors Code of Conduct.

- The Schools Financial Value Standard.
- The skills of governors with Financial Management Responsibilities (members of the Finance, Personnel and Buildings Committee).
- Ensuring transparency of the Governing Body by adding the following to the website:
 - Record of Governor attendance at meetings
 - Governor Register of Business Interests
 - Signed Governors Code of Conduct
 - Full Governing Body Terms of Reference
 - Governing Body Annual Statement
- Improving Governor skills and knowledge to support delivery of core functions:
 - Renewing the Full Subscription to Bedford Borough Governors Training Programme, circulating Training Opportunities and providing opportunity for feedback from Governor training/LA briefings attended.
 - Producing a Governor Annual Programme to include meeting dates and priorities, a Policy Review schedule, Leadership Team Focus and key events/dates.
 - Using Governor Hub to access resources and promote sharing of documents.
 - Continuing to ensure training and focussed updates are delivered by SLT at the beginning of Full Governing Body meetings when appropriate.
 - Reviewing allocation of specific Governor responsibilities. E.g. PPG, SEND, Safeguarding etc. and ensuring training opportunities are offered when available.
 - Continuing to ensure Curriculum and Standards form the focus of the second Full Governing Body meeting of each term enabling ALL governors to understand and challenge performance.
 - Supporting challenge in Governor Meetings/visits by development of agendas, meeting actions and visit forms that focus on reporting and recording impact.
- Provision of an experienced Clerk by:
 - Providing a Clerk Job Description, Person Specification and Performance Review.
 - Encouraging attendance at Bedford Borough Clerk Forums and other training opportunities.

Impact of the Governing Body {key supporting evidence}

- Values Education and Golden Rules implemented to support the school aims. {Governor Visits/FGB minutes/parent newsletters}
- Key focus on School Development Priorities. {Head Teacher Termly update/FGB Minutes/School Improvement Advisor Visit Report/Parent Newsletter}
- Strengthened School leadership team to support the Head Teacher and improve succession planning. {Performance Management Reviews/FGB/EGM minutes}
- Development of long term strategic direction with regard to 2 Tier education. {FGB/EGM Minutes / Primary Consultation Report/Building Planning meetings and correspondence}
- New Curriculum embedded with new assessment framework. {FGB minutes/governor visit forms/Pupil Progress Reports and SATs results }
- Improved engagement with stakeholders. {Parent newsletter/Governor visits/Primary consultation Report/ Primary New Build Planning meetings and correspondence}
- More effective Governing Body. {FGB and Committee minutes/Review of Governance Action Plan}