

Annual Governance Statement - Review of 2022-23 and Objectives for 2023-24

1. Role, Responsibilities and Membership of Governing Board

The Board is responsible for promoting high standards of educational achievement and pupil wellbeing in the school. The Board has 3 key responsibilities:

- **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**
- **Holding executive leaders to account** for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- **Overseeing financial performance** of the school and ensuring its money is well spent

The Board comprises the following members:

Ex officio	Jon Price (Rector of Brindle) Tracy Austin (Head)
Foundation governors	Emma Cranshaw Ross Ironfield Richard Isherwood Sheila Lewis Janet Parr Kathy Whyte
Local Authority governor	Sharon Bryson
Staff governor	Anna Latimer
Parent governors	Kevin Barton Kent Holden

The Board meets termly and at the start of the academic year and its Resources Committee (finance, staffing, premises, health and safety) and Curriculum and Standards Committee (educational standards and pupil wellbeing) each meet and report to the Board termly. Other committees meet as required to consider pupil and staff discipline and complaints. The attendance record of governors is published on the school website and is monitored by the Head and Chair annually.

Individual governors have link roles in relation to particular subject areas. Currently these are: English, maths, PE, RE, Safeguarding and Prevent, SEND, science, training.

2. Academic Year 2022/23

The Board has identified the following as its main achievements, including the work of its committees, during the year:

- Improve governors' knowledge of school and ability to carry out main functions.

More formal and informal visits to school by governors following reduction due to covid restrictions.

Continuation of holding meetings in different parts of school to observe learning environment.

Attendance by governors at school events.

Establishment of pattern of visits and reporting by link governors to foster better understanding of school by all governors.

Regular contributions by governors at all meetings. System of printing off agendas, tables and other hard to read documents and making available school i-pads during meetings for all committee papers to foster full participation.

Challenging decisions during year related to budget and future plans involving detailed discussions.

b) Foster training of all governors and support of new members

Training opportunities circulated regularly to members via email and Governorhub and all encouraged to attend suitable events.

Specific training events organised for full Board as appropriate and to meet statutory requirements.

Personal training record maintained on Governorhub by all governors. Training needs monitored by link governor, Head and Chair.

New governors given induction by Head and Chair and offered opportunity of support from nominated experienced governor.

c) Financial Management and Staffing

Maintenance of balanced budget with some surpluses in an increasingly challenging financial environment to provide window for future prudent planning.

Ongoing consideration of initiatives, such as a preschool class, to provide greater financial security for the medium and long-term future.

Consolidating management of out of hours clubs by school and introducing measures to make them financially secure.

Supporting introduction of some changes within school and consideration of advantages and disadvantages to limit expenditure and foster financial security.

Maintenance of Schools' Financial Value Standard.

Involvement in some staff recruitment to maintain effective team.

Pay review of all eligible staff.

d) Buildings and Health and Safety

Consolidation of enhancement of the foyer and hall and building of outdoor shelter in playground.

Raising of perimeter wall outside EYFS/KS1 classroom and development of plan for maintenance of remainder of wall.

Advice of consultants sought on roof leak and possible water penetration on wall and monitoring of these matters for possible future action.

e) Educational Matters

Continued monitoring and scrutiny of information provided by Head on operation of school and testing of this information by reports of link governors and knowledge gained from visits to school.

Support for use of different approaches to enhance development of writing skills.

Support for school during Ofsted visit in September 2022 which resulted in successful report and encouraging feedback for staff and governors. Findings of report incorporated into the school's objectives.

Attention given to issues of national concern such as attendance and wellbeing although school comes out well on such criteria.

Close liaison between the Head and Chair has continued especially in relation to safeguarding concerns.

Samples of children's work available to view after all meetings.

Noting of delay in SIAMS inspection schedule but remaining prepared.

f) Overall

Board considers 2022/23 to have been a successful year but recognises that it will face increasingly challenging decisions in 2023/24.

Contributions by all governors have contributed to overall success. All governors are committed to developing their skills.

The Board aims to streamline its reporting in order to improve effectiveness, to concentrate on key objectives and to avoid unnecessary pressure on staff.

3. Academic Year 2023/24

Specific objectives for the next academic year are:

Objective	Actions	Monitored by	Timescale
1.Effectiveness of Board	Monitor meeting attendance patterns for 2022/23 and take any action needed	Head, Chair	Business meeting autumn
	Identify and arrange full Board training event(s)	Head, Chair, link governor	By Easter 2024
	Identify training needs and record training on Governorhub	All	By end of summer term 2024
2. Exploration of academisation opportunities	Attend and reflect on training	All Head, Chair (schedule)	Ongoing
	Board discussion(s) on developing situation and decision made at relevant time	Board	Ongoing; review at end of 2023/24 if no decision
	Identify and explore further needs	Head, Chair	Ongoing
3.Exploration of measures to	Consider options and their advantages/ disadvantages	Board	By Christmas 2023

strengthen financial position			
	Develop plans to implement chosen approach	Head, Chair, professional advisers	Ongoing; phased throughout year
4.Establishment of voluntary financial support scheme	Set up scheme to give parents/ carers opportunity to contribute financially to specific school projects	Head/Chair	Launch early autumn term 2023 and then ongoing
	Operate scheme and monitor progress	School staff	Report to Board by end of summer term 2024