



Grove Vale Primary School Governors Impact Statement 2020-2021 and action for 21/222

The role of the Board of Governors is an intrinsic part of the leadership of the school, although often unseen by parents and other community stakeholders. This annual impact statement is one way in which the Board attempts to articulate its role in school leadership and the impact that it has had on school improvement during that year, and to be transparent about its activities.

The Governor Handbook published by the Department of Education clearly sets out three core functions of the Board of Governors:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**
- 2. Holding the Headteacher 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**

The entire work of the Full Governing Body (FGB) is focused on meeting the requirements of these functions. The outcome is that the FGB knows the school well, is confident that all statutory and legal requirements are met, ensures that issues within school are addressed in a timely and effective manner, and contributes to a strategic plan that will ensure the school is effective in the long term.

What have we done for the school in the academic year 2020/21?

1 Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

- We have reviewed ourselves as a FGB to ensure we are operating effectively and provide a good balance of support and challenge to the Headteacher, this has been more closely driven due to amendments to the implementation of the school vision (COVID)
- We have reviewed, inputted to and then ratified the Senior Leadership Team's proposed School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Key priorities including our bounce back strategy
- We have ensured that the SIP priorities were addressed, via robust challenge and support at each FGB and sub-committee meeting whilst supporting and understanding the challenges COVID has presented to the leadership team.
- We have re-elected new Chair, two Vice-Chairs and chairs of sub-committees and reviewed the Terms of Reference for all committees.
- We have continued to review, where appropriate, school policies and we have ensured that this process is as efficient as possible. In some cases, we have adopted new policies e.g remote learning, virtual attendance at meetings to acknowledge and support changes to working practices.
- We have continued to ensure all meetings are properly captured in minutes and challenge/support evidenced throughout through virtual attendance.
- We have ensured governors received appropriate training including presentations from staff via powerpoint/virtual training.



- Improved staff relationships, creating a culture of valuing staff e.g letter of thanks,
- At the end of the academic year, we are pleased to report that many of our ambitious objectives on the SIP have been met in a challenging year. We are especially proud of the school's achievement for the well-being charter mark and the PE quality mark with distinction. The school has managed challenges with attendance and catch up extremely well which were a key areas of focus on the SIP.

Next steps for 21/22

- To have a clear understanding of curriculum intent in school
- To continue to communicate more regularly with parents with termly Governor Newsletters & begin to offer governor drop in sessions
- To outreach to various other schools and governing bodies to both demonstrate and learn best practice

2 Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff

- We have conducted the Headteacher Appraisal together with an external consultant, setting further objectives for the next review period
- Asking relevant and informed questions at governing body meetings including subject presentations
- We have continued our on-going regular meetings between the Chair, Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher, as well as our link governors for SEND, Safeguarding, Well-being and Pupil Premium.
- We have ensured robust and rigorous monitoring by SLT of staff performance through regular updates to the whole FGB
- We have continued to improve our scrutiny and understanding of school data, with thorough monitoring of all pupils (including groups of pupils i.e. SEND, disadvantaged, gender gaps) to ensure appropriate progress being made and attainment standards raised in all core subjects
- We have continued to provide a robust challenge to both pupil and sports premium funding to ensure all pupils benefit from the monies being spent
- We have reviewed anonymised performance management reports to ensure that staff objectives were linked to the SIP.

Despite virtual attendance and a lack of real life interaction, our governing body is still very much fully involved in school life. The impact of this is that governors are aware of how children are performing and where there are areas for development, and that they can ask challenging questions to ensure that any identified problems are addressed in a timely manner. The FGB know throughout the year how the school is progressing towards the school priorities and targets.

This involvement is important as it allows us to be fully confident that what we are being told happens in school really does happen in school. The consistent support and challenge of the Board has had the



impact that the school has made further improvements in its educational performance and is now embedding practices that will reap rewards in the long term.

Next steps for 21/22

- Continue to work as link governors in all year groups, restart attendance at events
- Governors to have a firm awareness and understanding of the Ofsted framework expectations
- Begin to monitor school life regularly by conducting learning walks alongside SMT, which include observing lesson observations, book scrutinises and discussions with children to hear the “pupil voice”.
- Include vice chairs to our on-going regular meetings between the Chair, Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher
- Improve pupil premium reporting to governors
- Review school improvement plan and school priorities

3 Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

- The FGB have monitored the school’s health and safety audits, fire safety audits and created priority lists for improvement, this has been especially important during the last year with the prevalence and priority of COVID.
- As a result of audits, we have worked alongside school to refurbish all pupil toilet blocks, replace blinds and curtains.
- The FGB have continued in their robust reviewing and challenging of the budgets, outturn reports, forecasts and 3 year plans
- Worked with the school to make adjustments to the before and after school club provision

Next steps for 21/222

- Work alongside school to ensure value for money
- All governors to receive basic budget/school finance training

