



Grove Vale Primary School Governors Impact Statement 2022-2023 and actions for 23/24

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 2022/23?

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 closely monitored with challenge and support as the DHT has been seconded to another local school
- We have reviewed, inputted to and then ratified the Senior Leadership Team's proposed School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Key priorities
- 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 local and national challenges presented to the leadership team.
- We have re-elected new Chair, a Vice-Chair 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. We have reviewed the policy ratification cycle to ensure our policies are relevant and up to date with local and national issues.
- We have continued to ensure all meetings are properly captured in minutes and challenge/support evidenced throughout through attendance.
- We have ensured governors received appropriate training including presentations from staff via powerpoint/shared documentation on a subject rotation



- Improved staff relationships, creating a culture of valuing staff e.g letter of thanks, congratulations
- 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 Games Gold Award. The school has managed challenges with attendance and persistent absence which were a key areas of focus on the SIP.

Next steps for 23/24

- To continue to have a clear understanding of curriculum impact throughout the school and with pupil conferencing opportunities
- To continue to communicate more regularly with parents with 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
- To work with new parent governors to model good practice with their new roles and responsibilities at governors

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 (until Jan), 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.

Our governing body is very much fully involved in school life and we have governors who attend wider events in school. 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 23/24

- Continue to work as link governors in all year groups, continue to attend events on a more frequent basis
- Governors to have a firm awareness and understanding of the Ofsted framework expectations and a working party shall focus on the EIF alongside the HT.
- 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”.
- 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.
- As a result of audits, we have worked alongside school to create outdoor learning zones for children, replace blinds and ensure that the bus is fit for purpose.
- The FGB have continued in their robust reviewing and challenging of the budgets, outturn reports, forecasts and 3 year plans
- Proactive support for the swimming pool project to enable it to open
- All governors received basic budget/school finance training

Next steps for 23/24

- Work alongside school to ensure value for money and to support income generation through lettings
- Governors to play a supportive and proactive part to the swimming pool in phase 2

