**Annual Governor Impact Statement for the Governing Board of Higher Walton C of E Primary School**

**School Year 2022-2023**

**Role of the Governing Body**

The role of the governing board in a local authority maintained school is set out in education law, namely to ‘conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement’. The board also has a legal responsibility to promote pupil wellbeing. It does this by:

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

**Governance Arrangements**

The governing board is made up as follows:

* Parent Governors: 2 (1 vacancy during 2022/23)
* Headteacher: 1
* Staff Governor: 1
* Co-opted Governors: 6
* Local Authority Governor: 1
* Foundation: 2 (1 vacacny during 2022/23)
* Foundation Ex-Officio: 1

The full Governing Board meets once per term and Governors also meet at least termly as committees to consider various aspects of the school in detail. At Higher Walton C of E Primary School we have the following committees:

**Resources:**- Responsibilities include financial, staffing and legal aspects.

**Standards, Ethos & Pupil Welfare:-** Responsibilities include monitoring of academic results, quality of education, pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare, and spiritual, social, moral and cultural development

**Chairs:-** Responsibilities include monitoring and evaluating the leadership and management of the school, including Governance.

During this past year the Full Governing body has met five times. The Resources committee, Standards, Ethos & Pupil Welfare committee and Chairs commitee have all met twice.

Governors also have links to pupil premium, sports premium, English, Maths, RE and EYFS and visit school regularly to meet pupils and staff, in addition to monitoring specific aspects of the curriculum or areas such as SEN and safeguarding.

There are also committees that meet, if required, to consider pupil discipline, staffing appeals and complaints.

**Policy Review**

Governors have a key role in reviewing and approving school policies and this year have approved the following policies:

* EYFS Policy
* Intimate Care Policy
* Collective Worship Policy
* Attendance Policy
* Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
* Pay Policy 2022/23
* HR Policies
* Personnel Policies
* Health and Safety Policy
* Premises Management Documents (inc. School Continuity Plan, School Emergency Plan and School Lockdown Plan)

**Governor Training and Impact**

Individual governors were encouraged to use the NGA online platform to complete modules of training linked to their role. There were also some modules set by the chair of individual committees for members of that committee to undertake.

Key modules governors were asked to complete were:

* Dimensions Curriculum Training
* Equality and Diversity – 1st Steps
* Equality and Diversity – Beyond Complaince

Completion of modules means that all governors are aware of their responsibilities and are able to evaluate the impact they are making on the strategic direction of the school.

The governors have also appointed Mrs Joanne Andertonto be the training link governor to develop and respond to the training needs of the governing body going forward.

**GOVERNOR IMPACT STATEMENTS FROM THE PAST YEAR OF MEETINGS**

**GOVERNOR MEETINGS**

**Autumn term**

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| **Minutes of the Full Governors Meeting 14th September 2022**Governors identified the following intended impact, on school improvement and/or church school distinctiveness, of the board’s considerations and decisions at the meeting:* The Ofsted inspection report was considered and governros agreed the next steps to progress the Ofsted Action Plan.
* School Improvement Priorities were approved.
* Additional Standards, Ethos and Welfare committee meetings were agreed for the spring and summer term to ensure sufficient scrutiny could be gived to the SIP and Ofsted action plans whilst also meeting the rest of the committees remit.
* A governinr training plan was agreed with a focus on curriculum delivery to ensure quality of education.
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| **Minutes of the Curriculum Standards and Ethos & Welfare Committee** **Meeting 5th October 2022**Governors identified the following intended impact, on school improvement and/or church school distinctiveness, of the board’s considerations and decisions at the meeting:* Governors scrutinised the headteacher’s curriculum update, seeking clarification on curriculum support purchased and questioning implementation in relation to quality of education. · Statutory results for 2022 were analysed and governors sought to understand the interventions put in place to improve outcomes this academic year.
* The impact of last years targeted intervention and tutoring was monitored. ·
* Governors sought to ensure all families eligible for free school meals were aware of their entitlement.
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| **Resources Committee Virtual Meeting****On Wednesday 19th October 2022** Governors identified the following intended impact, on school improvement and/or church school distinctiveness, of the board’s considerations and decisions at the meeting:* Governors consider the co-headteachers budget request and unanimously approved the virement of funds to pay supply agency staff. Governors agreed this was necessary to ensure quality of education and maintain staff and children’s wellbeing.
* It was agreed that governors should be proactively involved in escalating the issues with the condemned mobile unit. Lack of investment in a replacement unit was limiting the school’s growth potential, impacting intervention strategies and reducing storage space. Mr B Collins would represent the committee in communications with LCC. ·
* The rolling building programme and use of DFC was explored. It was agreed that this should be addressed with LCC alongside the mobile unit replacement. ·
* Governors agreed a reduced review frequency for Premise Management Policies to minimise unnecessary workload.
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| **Minutes of the Full Governors****30th November 2022**Governors identified the following intended impact, on school improvement and/or church school distinctiveness, of the board’s considerations and decisions at the meeting:* A governor enquired about the impact of the site supervisor splitting their shifts with another member of contact cleaning staff. Mrs Headley advised that the contract cleaning company had allowed the shifts to be split and to date there had been no issues. ·
* There has been 29 days of absence between the 1st September and 10th October with 23 days covered by supply. One member of teaching staff was off on long term sick and Occupational Health had been involved.
* · The new teacher had settled well and was positive, enthusiastic and pro-active. Observations had been strong.
* A second round of recruitment for 2 TAs (SEN support) and 1 club assistant was underway. Applications numbers were very low, indicative of the current recruitment issues for TAs.
* Governors raised concerns about staff wellbeing, particularly in EYFS. Team Teach training had been planned for Mrs Noblet and 1 EYFS TA. The session would focus on strategies to deescalate behaviour issues, positive handling and maintaining calm environments. Strategies would be cascaded to relevant staff. ASD training had been arranged for another EYFS TA. ·
* The SLT had focused on recruiting a strong supply teacher to cover the member of staff on LTS.
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| **Resources Committee Virtual Meeting****Wednesday 8th February**Governors identified the following intended impact, on school improvement and/or church school distinctiveness, of the board’s considerations and decisions at the meeting:* The vision plan was reviewed and updated to indicate achievements to date and acknowledge shifting goal posts. ·
* Governors offered to be more involved in the escalation of the SEND issues facing school. The SEND governor would look at escalating concerns to Golden Hill and a governor would be present to support staff in difficult parental meetings.
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| **Minutes of the Full Governors Meeting 29th March 2023**Governors identified the following intended impact, on school improvement and/or church school distinctiveness, of the board’s considerations and decisions at the meeting:* It was agreed that a greater focus should be placed on nominated governor visits.
* Processes to facilitate these visits were explored including remote meetings, specific questions to be asked etc. ·
* Further terms of office, change of governor types and recruitment of new governors were discussed to ensure the governing body had the best possible outcome of filling all vacant positions.
* Strategically the board reviewed the skills required on the boardand the best way forward to engage the local and / or wider community.
* The decision was taken to progress conversations relating to joining an Multi Academy Trust and build into the governor development plan.
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| **Minutes of the Full Governors Meeting 17 May 2023**Governors identified the following intended impact, on school improvement and/or church school distinctiveness, of the board’s considerations and decisions at the meeting:* The recruitment process, including timescales, for the new Headteacher was confirmed. ·
* Governors received an update on the MITs involvement in the school. Governors were committed to developing the school and ensuring high standards of education and achievement.
* The involvement of MIT would support the setting of the strategic direction of the school and ensure robust accountability. ·
* Governors noted that the additional funding to support SEN pupils, specifically in the EYFS cohort, had significantly impacted the budget outturn for 2022/23. As the initial proposed working 2023/24 budget left the school in a deficit position at 31st March 2024 it was acknowledged that the budget could not be approved. ·
* It was agreed that the draft budget be submitted as a working budget and that support be requested to develop a financial recovery plan. ·
* To improve energy efficiency, it was agreed that the school should enquire about using the Additional Capital Funding awarded in September to install LED lighting throughout the school. It was hoped this would improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel costs whilst also improvement the classroom / office environments. ·
* Governors requested that plans for the development of the EYFS outdoor area be drawn up as soon as possible.
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| **Minutes of the Chairs Committee 21st June 2023**Governors identified the following intended impact, on school improvement and/or church school distinctiveness, of the board’s considerations and decisions at the meeting:* A Standards and Effectiveness Committee were appointed to receive regular feedback from the Management Improvement Team which would be built into the school development plan and governors long term vision.
* The class structure for 2023/24 was agreed and proposed staff changes approved. Governors sought to ensure the school delivered quality education whilst also considering staff wellbeing.
* The committee agreed to the immediate review of TA contracts. The decision took into consideration the impact on staff wellbeing, fairness to all staff in terms of pay scales, the delivery of a quality education and the schools financial situation.
* Governors discussed staff wellbeing and the importance of supporting staff through the challenges the school was facing. Wellbeing would remain high on the governor’s agenda throughout the next academic year.
* The ongoing issues with the school’s contract cleaners were discussed. Governors supported the request for a change in personnel and sought to receive recompense for the large number of paid for but unworked hours.
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| **Minutes of the Full Governing Board 19th July 2023**Governors identified the following intended impact, on school improvement and/or church school distinctiveness, of the board’s considerations and decisions at the meeting:* The significant role governors had played supporting the school during the academic year, and particualry in the summer term, was acknowledged.
* Disappointement was expressed regarding the national assessment outcomes and plans shared which focused on improving quality of education welcomed.
* Effective recruitment saw the new academic year commencing with an experienced EYFS teacher who would work with support from the SLT and esternal agencies to significantly improve standards in EYFS.
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