

Governing Body Impact Statement – 2020-21

The Governing Body of Wallace Fields Junior School met formally for at least eight Full Governing Body meetings during 2020-21. Our committed team of Governors, made up of individuals spanning a range of diverse backgrounds, skills and experience including finance, education and business, were determined not to let the pandemic interfere with their delivery of the three core functions of school governance.

The Core Functions

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

The Key Achievements and Impact of Governors in 2020-21 include:-

- Successfully delivering governance through virtual governing body meetings despite restrictions on attendance in school.
- Providing an external perspective to support leaders undertaking Covid risk assessment and implementing appropriate measures, together with adjustment to meet the changing context and guidance.
- Challenge and support to school leaders regarding the implementation of online learning and monitoring of the quality of this learning; governors heard from parents and pupils on this subject and were assured regarding pupil engagement and parent satisfaction.
- The Governing Body responded quickly to the Head Teacher's absence due to illness, and additional long term absence staff, to put a competent leadership structure in place, including drawing on upon two recently qualified leaders for the roles of Acting Head and Deputy Head teachers.
- Conscious that they were not able to engage in their usual visits to the School due to continuing restrictions, governors held online meetings with year group teachers supporting both their insight and staff wellbeing.
- Implementation of curriculum update presentations from subject leaders to support governor understanding of the curriculum and improved challenge has also had the added bonus of growing the confidence of subject leaders in discussing their subjects.

The Key Achievements and Impact of Governors in 2021-22 include:-

- More governors have been able to visit the School in person to see the school in action and undertake valuable learning walks to enhance their understanding and the quality of their challenge.
- Monitoring the impact of new funding streams related to Covid recovery in addition to ongoing monitoring of the impact of funding for disadvantaged pupils to ensure that gaps are addressed and the longer-term education of these children does not suffer from the pandemic.
- The Governing Body has monitored and welcomed the progress seen in a high SEN year group as an impact of investment in specific interventions over a number of years to support this cohort.
- Introduced enhancements to the system of lead governor roles to support the governance structure at WFJS and deliver oversight of the School's strategic foci.
- Governors have continued to engage in training for their role, both as a collective and through individual training. All governors have completed the annual safeguarding update, new

governors have attended induction training to introduce them to school governance and governors have attended specific training to equip them for their appointed roles.

- Governors engaged this year in bespoke Whole Governing Body training on Ofsted and Strategic Governance.
- The Governing Body has responded to governor mobility through successfully recruiting to fill gaps and in particular recruited valuable additional experience in education and finance.
- Maintaining a critical friend role, both to the leadership team and also staff across the school.