



Upton-upon-Severn C of E Primary School

Annual Statement of the Governing Body

September 2024

1. Introduction

The Governing Body works to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement. This annual statement details the work of the Governing Body in fulfilling its responsibilities.

The purpose of governors is to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement.

The Governing Body has three core strategic functions:

- a. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- b. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- c. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

2. The work of the Governing Body during 2023-24

Once again this year, underlying all of the work of the Full Governing Body is the school's vision - to offer inspiration to young lives and the associated motto 'Anything is possible, we can all succeed.'

The Full Governing Body (FGB) met on five occasions during the academic year 2023-24 – on 12 September 2023, 18 December 2023, 29 February 2024, 25 April 2024 and on 11 July 2024. The FGB's three committees, Business, School Improvement and Pay met during the year as follows:

- Business: 27 September 2023, 22 November 2023, 10 January 2024, 21 February 2024, 17 April 2024 and 3 July 2024.
- School Improvement: 17 November 2023, 24 January 2024, 21 March 2024, and 27 June 2024.
- Pay: 11 Dec. 2023.

Key issues engaged with by the Full Governing Body (FGB) and its constituent committees through the school year included the following;

- Consideration of a detailed termly Headteacher's report. A comprehensive reporting format, which had been introduced in 2023-23, was somewhat

revised through the year, with the inclusion of a summary. The Headteacher's report continued to include details on the following:

- school's contextual data
- safeguarding update
- leadership and management
- staffing update
- pupil behaviour and attitudes (including attendance)
- personal development
- quality of education.

The termly reports were pre-circulated, allowing governors the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification from the Headteacher on the content of the report.

- Oversight and monitoring of the school's safeguarding procedures, with regular anonymised reports on the subject being considered at FGB meetings. The Safeguarding Link Governor met with the school's Assistant Headteacher who has responsibility for safeguarding to ensure all protocols and procedures are robust to ensure safety for all of the school's pupils, staff and visitors.
- Approval of the school budget for 2024-25. Through the work of the Business Committee, the governors have worked closely with the Headteacher, the School's new business manager (appointed in September 2023) and senior leadership team to monitor the school budget throughout the year and to identify spending priorities. The local authority regularly monitors the school's financial situation, and is working closely with the school on financial management matters.

During the year, governors had face-to-face school visits, implementing the protocols which had been developed a year earlier. The following themed visits were undertaken, all linked to various aspects of the School Development Plan. The governors undertaking these visits have produced reports which were considered at FGB meetings where there was an opportunity to consider issues arising from these reports. During 2023-24, governor visits explored the following areas:

- Early Years and Foundation Stage
- English – reading literacy, achievement at Key Stages 1 and 2
- Numeracy
- Implementation and effect of new school-wide curriculum
- Organisation, management and governance
- Pupil Premium
- Religious provision
- Safeguarding

With regard to the governing body itself, during 2023-24:

- All governors undertook online safeguarding training during the year.

- We have sought to implement the recommendations arising from the external governance review undertaken in Spring 2023.
- Following training in 2022-23, a new strategic plan for the governing body was approved in July 2024. This is accessible as a separate document.
- Two new governors were appointed during the year: Jarrod Christian (parent governor, from December 2023) and Helen Main (co-opted governor, from July 2024).
- Following the resignation of Sue Headley, the clerk to governors, in July 2023, a new governance professional, Claire Finch took up her role in February 2024,

3. Highlights and challenges during 2023-24

A positive SIAMS inspection took place in May 2024 during which a number of governors were interviewed. The inspector found that:

‘The school’s Christian vision is deeply embedded in the daily life of this vibrant and supportive community.’

It was also noted that:

‘School improvement is intrinsically linked to the vision at every level ... There is a palpable passion and energy within school, and the governing body, to continue to develop this priority.’

The school’s SATS results showed improvement year-on-year which governors were pleased to note, though it must be acknowledged that there remains work to be done to optimise results. Particular attention is being paid to improving pupil’s attendance levels, which is part of a national campaign. Work in this area will continue to be emphasised both to children and their parents and carers throughout 2024-25.

The governing body paid particular attention to the implementation and embedding of a revised school-wide curriculum, monitoring its impact upon the children’s learning through the year. The impact of this substantial development upon learning has been promising to date. The Head and Deputy Head have reported regularly to the governing body upon this matter through the year.

Like many schools, finances remain a challenge and the school is working with the local authority on this matter. Particularly through the work of the Business Committee, the governors work with the school management to explore ways of seeking to increase pupil numbers, and ensuring that expenditure is rigorously controlled, ensuring good value for money is achieved in all areas.

The governing body, in line with the recommendations of the Education White Paper of 2022, is considering whether, in the long term, to join an academy and, if so, which one would best suit the needs of the school community. Full consultation with parents will take place before any decisions on this matter are taken.

During 2023-24, several pupils from Ukraine have continued to be members of the school community and contribute greatly to the school-wide educational and cultural experience.

4. Priorities for Full Governing Body identified for 2024-25

These include the following:

- Continuing to monitor closely the senior management's action planning and staff implementation of the wider curriculum
- Continuing to scrutinise implementation by school management and staff of the plans put in place to enhance pupils' academic achievement
- Ensuring that the School addresses the two areas for development outlined in the recent SIAMS report.
- Overseeing the development and implementation of a plan in co-operation with the local authority, so as to address the School's financial position
- Implementation of the new governors' strategic plan
- Considering the options relating to the school becoming part of an academy.

Dr Andrew Walker, Chair of Governors

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