

Upton-upon-Severn C of E Primary School
Annual Statement of the Governing Body
September 2023



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; and the effective and efficient performance management of staff;
- c. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

2. The work of the Governing Body during 2022-23

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 2022-23 – on 26 September 2022, 6 December 2022, 8 March 2023, 26 April 2023 and on 19 July 2023. The FGB's three committees, Business, School Improvement and Pay met during the year as follows:

- Business: 26 September 2022, 6 December 2022, 14 February 2023, 21 April 2023, and 11 July 2023.
- School Improvement: 11 November 2022, 8 March 2023, and 19 July 2023.
- Pay: 26 Apr. 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 last year continued to be employed. The Headteacher's report included 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 2023-24. Through the work of the Business Committee, the governors have worked closely with the headteacher, finance officer (to Spring 2023) and senior leadership team to monitor the school budget throughout the year and to identify spending priorities. The absence of a finance officer since Spring 2023 has to an extent been offset by use of temporary external staffing provision. However, from September 2023, a new part-time School Business Manager has been appointed. The local authority is kept regularly informed of the school's financial situation, and is working closely with the school on financial management matters.

During the year, governors were able to recommence face-to-face school visits. Initially, attention was paid to developing protocols regarding such visits, which were then applied. 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 are considered at FGB meetings and there is an opportunity to raise issues arising from these reports. During 2022-23, governor visits explored the following areas:

- Early Years and Foundation Stage
- English – reading literacy, achievement at Key Stages 1 and 2
- Organisation, management and governance
- Pupil Premium
- Religious provision
- Safeguarding

With regard to the governing body itself, during 2022-23:

- Three new governors were appointed during the year: Emma Diamond (staff governor), Tonwen Empson (LEA governor); and Glyn Olden (co-opted governor).
- A new Chair of Governors was appointed in September 2022, Dr Andrew Walker.
- Full governing body training took place in Spring 2023 when many governors undertook training on strategic planning, delivered by Worcestershire Children First.

3. Highlights and challenges during 2022-23

Challenges presented to the school during the year included especially the continued long-term impact of Covid, which has had an effect upon some aspects of children's social and educational development, as has been the case across the country.

Nevertheless, through the year for the first time since the Covid outbreak, it has been possible to reinstate some key parts of the school calendar – such as a Key Stage 2 school production (Shrek the Musical jr), bellboating, and a wider range of school external activities, including sporting contests, and residential activities for Years 5 and 6. One of the highlights of the year was welcoming Tanzanian visitors from Changa English Medium School to the school.

The School's financial position necessitates considerable attention on the part of the Board of Governors. It is working closely with the local authority on this matter.

The Board of Governors' attention was directed to the school's SATS results in July 2023, which in part were below the overall expected standard. Particular attention will be paid by the Board to monitoring the senior management's overseeing and implementation of action plans to enhance curriculum delivery and pupil performance in 2023-24.

Over the Summer holiday period in 2023, the School's Facilities Manager, Robert Miles oversaw the redecoration of much of the school, preparing it for the new school year. We were pleased to note that, following inspection that the school has no Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete on its premises.

The School saw the departure at the end of the Summer Term of its Deputy Headteacher, Adam Kent, and SENCO lead, Jo Ludlow. Other staff who departed, after long service, were Mrs Martin (16 years) and Mrs Hollier (17 years). We are grateful to them for their work for the School and its pupils. We welcome to the School this September a new Deputy Headteacher who is also SENCO lead, Jo Visor.

During 2022-23, we have been particularly pleased to include several pupils from Ukraine within the school community who have contributed greatly to the school-wide educational and cultural experience.

4. Priorities for Full Governing Body identified for 2023-24

These include the following:

- Closely monitoring the senior management's action planning and staff implementation of the wider curriculum
- Scrutinising implementation by school management and staff of the plans put in place to enhance pupils' academic achievement
- Overseeing the development and implementation of a plan in co-operation with the local authority, so as to address the School's financial position

- Development and implementation of strategic planning at governance level
- Implementation of action plan arising from Spring 2023 governance review

Dr Andrew Walker, Chair of Governors
September 2023