



Kingston St Mary Primary School

Governor End of Year Impact Statement – 2021/2022

Governors' Role

The role of the Governing Body is an intrinsic part of the leadership of the school. This impact statement is one way in which the Governing Body articulates their role in school leadership and the impact we have had on school improvement. The Governing Body is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers, who invest a huge amount of good will, hard work and time for the sole purpose of improving the education of every child in our school.

The governing body has three core functions:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the school's educational leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure money is well spent.

The governance of our school is structured and conducted through the Full Governing Body, a Finance and Premises Committee and a Pay Committee. Link Governors are appointed for Special Needs, Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Data Protection. meetings.

Impact of Full Governing Body Meetings

Governors attend eight Full Governing Body (FGB) meetings during the year. The Chairs of Governors meet with the clerk and Headteacher in September create a Governor Meeting Plan which sets the focus for each meeting. This ensures all statutory duties are carried out and that sufficient time is given for monitoring the SDP. The governors work co-operatively with the Headteacher to identify the key priorities for the School Development Plan (SDP). The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and our latest Ofsted Inspection Report (December 2021). Governors are linked to areas of the SDP; they conduct a minimum of two visits with staff to monitor progress against the objectives. Governors complete a standard Governor Visit Report that is shared with, and reported to the FGB. The visits and reports enables the governing body to ask important questions, support the school but also hold the school leadership to account.

At the end of each meeting, the governors reflect on the effectiveness of the meeting and subsequently their governance against its core functions.

In addition to monitoring the SDP, link governors meet with the appropriate member of staff twice a year to monitor the key areas of Special Needs, Safeguarding, Health & Safety and GDPR. Visit reports are completed and shared with the FGB to hold the school leadership to account.

In line with their statutory obligations, governors review, approve and challenge the impact of key school policies.

As well as challenge, Governors provide strong support for the Headteacher and monitor staff and pupil wellbeing.

Impact of Finance and Premises Committee

The committee meets a minimum of three times a year to cover the key elements of school financial standards, to monitor spending, hold the Headteacher to account for the financial performance of the school and to approve draft and the final spending budget. Alongside the minutes of meetings, the Chair of the committee provides verbal feedback to the FGB.

The committee monitor the staffing structure and approve spending for staffing levels in line with pupil numbers and need. They monitor pupil numbers and take pupil number forecasts into account when planning the staffing structure.

Through working closely with the Headteacher, the Finance and Premises Committee has supported the school and held it accountable to ensure effective budgeting through a period of falling pupil numbers.

The committee explored benchmarking to ensure spending is in line with similar schools and gave challenge to clarify the reasons for any significant differences and determine their necessity.

The **Pupil Premium Grant** spending plan is approved by the committee each year, governors challenge the Headteacher on the impact of the spending. The funding is intended to narrow the gap, where it exists, between pupil premium children and non-pupil premium children. Not only do we use the funding for academic achievement the governors approved its use to ensure equality of opportunity of participation in extra-curricular activities and trips where there is a cost to parents.

Alongside the PPG, the committee also monitors the spending of the **Sports Premium Funding**. This is ring-fenced money and must only be spent on physical education and sport provision in schools. The funding aims to achieve improvement in all areas of PE, from the standard of physical education to introducing health focused physical activities and after school sports.

Impact of Pay Committee

Governors are responsible for undertaking the Headteacher's Performance Management review each year. Governors, supported by an independent School Improvement Partner, set annual targets which are reviewed during the year.

The Pay Committee meets with the Headteacher twice a year to monitor the implementation of the Staff Appraisal Policy and to approve any recommended pay recommendations for eligible teachers. These follow the Somerset County Council approved Pay Policy.

Impact of Link Governors

SEND Governor

In 2021-2022, Mrs Stokes and Mrs Lord were responsible for ensuring the key responsibilities of the SENDCo are carried out effectively and meet the needs of the pupils. The SEND governors meet at least twice a year with the SENDCo. Mrs Stokes has since left the Governing Body and Mrs Lord maintains this role for 2022-2023.

Safeguarding Governor

Mrs Stokes, the Safeguarding Governor, met with the Headteacher to complete the Governor Safeguarding Audit and carried out termly checks on the Single Central Register to ensure our compliance with the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Other Link Governors

The **Health & Safety** and **GDPR** governors monitor the schools compliance through termly walk around the school using the relevant checklists. These are shared with the Headteacher for action where need and reported to the FGB.

School Policies

Governors review and approve statutory policies annually. This takes place throughout the year in FGB meetings, Finance and Resources Committee meetings and Pay Committee meetings. The Governors Policies are updated on the school website.

Training

Governors complete a skills audit yearly and respond to identified gaps in knowledge by attending relevant training courses. Some of the Governors have specific areas that they monitor and report on, they keep up to date with the relevant training as and when the policies change.

OFSTED GRADING:

The school is graded as a GOOD school.

Date: 25/01/2023