

JOSEPH TURNER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Governors Annual Statement and Impact Report 2023 – 2024

The Governing body at our school endeavours to fulfil the role defined by Government supported by the Local Authority. In doing so we hope that we can help to make our school the very best it can be for the benefit of our children and be even better today than we were yesterday.

The Department for Education guidance specifies that the annual statement should explain how we have fulfilled our responsibilities, including:

- the governance arrangements that are in place, including the remit of any committees;
- the attendance record of individual governors at board and committee meetings
- an assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the board and any committees with details of any particular challenges that have arisen
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Before covering these areas we should firstly explain that the Governor role is intended to be strategic in nature while being a “critical friend” to the Head teacher and the school leadership team who are responsible for the day to day operational running of the school. In reviewing the way the school works, the Governors have gained an enormous respect for all the staff in the school. The amount of effort, care for our children, and “going the extra mile” we see on a regular basis from all our staff, is nothing short of inspirational.

Governor Meetings

At Joseph Turner Primary School members of the governing body have played, and continue to play, a strong role in driving the school forward. The current governors who are all listed on the website, are all volunteers, giving up their own time to fulfil the roles for the benefit of our children.

The Governing body meet throughout the year, governors attend the following meetings:

- Finance and Standards (F & S)
- Curriculum and Standards (C & S)
- Health and Safety (H & S)
- Full governor body meetings (FGB)
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There have been 13 meetings, 3 for F &S, 3 for C &S, 3 for H & S and 4 for FGB the year 2023 – 2024. Governor attendance has, as always, been of a very good level, with any absences having been fully explained and accepted and approved by the governing body.

There are no causes for concern at the level of commitment shown by any member of the governing body. On the website, the governor’s section highlights governor attendance at meetings.

We have a very experienced governance professional that helps us to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year are covered, and we have a number of sub-committees that perform much of the detailed work in accordance with their terms of reference:

Finance and Staffing Committee

Responsible for monitoring and reviewing the school budget and the school funds at regular intervals;

Full Governing Body

Is a group of people who work together to oversee the management and operation of a school. They are responsible for setting the school's aims and objectives, and for ensuring that the school is run in a way that improves the quality of education.

Health and Safety Committee

Is responsible for the maintenance and health and safety aspects of the school buildings, and decisions on the use of the premises outside school hours.

Curriculum and Standards Committee

A group that oversees a school's curriculum and standards to ensure that all children receive a balanced and broad education

The major concern to the governors is ensuring that our pupils progress appropriately in their education and appreciate that for this to happen the pupils must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff all working together within a safe, supportive but yet relaxing environment. Governors appreciate too, the requirements of our children's parents and carers and their need to be satisfied about the overall leadership and management of the school and how it affects safety, learning and enjoyment of their children.

To achieve their objectives governors too must continually evaluate the role they have played within the life of the school, and publish relevant information to all interested parties.

This statement and report are part of that evaluation and publication process.

School Development Plan (SDP)

Governors work co-operatively with the head teacher and senior leadership in writing and monitoring the School Development Plan. The School Development Plan sets aims for the forthcoming year. The SDP for 2023/24 was based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SDP is set out with clear aims, the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these aims and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SDP is monitored and reviewed termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to governors alongside the Head Teacher report.

The targets of the school development plan 2023/24 were identified as

To continue to embed a broad and balanced curriculum that sequences and supports learning over time.

To improve the outcomes for learners in R, W, M including disadvantaged and SEND.

To ensure that pupils are attending school as much as possible and reduce persistent absence for disadvantaged pupils.

Increase the consistency and effectiveness of behaviour across the school so that it is aligned with school's ethos and values.

To improve outcomes for children (increase in GLD).

To continue to embed a robust mental health and well-being program for all pupils and staff.

New SLT comes together with a clear, ambitious vision that is rooted in the delivery of at least good teaching and learning and high expectations of all.

The governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP and of specific issues. These visits are considered a valuable opportunity for governors to be able to work closely with staff members across the school. Link governors follow a cycle which sets out the monitoring activities which they will be undertaking with the subject leader. Guidance in terms of the roles and responsibilities of governors during their visits are provided and regular training is available in order to up-skill our team.

Examples of the impact of these visits include

Co-operative working to prepare and introduce new policies and working practices on Special Educational Needs, Keeping Children Safe in Education and progress towards achieving the Key Objectives in Writing and Maths. The core subject governors (Reading, Writing, Maths and Phonics) have also ensured school have a programme of effective interventions which show sustained progress and positively impact on learning in Reading, Writing and Maths. This in turn has allowed school to demonstrate continued year on year improvement in basic skills.

Data analysis

Data is made available to governors through termly curriculum meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the Head teacher and members of the senior leadership team. By doing this the governors are able to benchmark their data against similar schools, the Local Authority and schools nationally to ensure the schools standards and expectations are high and are able to be closely scrutinised.

Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium.

Policies

Governors review all relevant policies on a programmed basis to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date.

Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list and the Local Authority recommended list.

Financial management

Joseph Turner Primary School has an experienced Chair of the Finance and Staffing Committee who is fully committed to ensuring that the school money is spent effectively for all pupils. The governors have worked closely with the Head Teacher, business manager and senior leaders to monitor the school budget. The impact of the governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous.

Governor expertise

At Joseph Turner Primary School, the governors bring a wide variety of expertise to the school and this in turn helps to ensure the school continues to move forward and develop.

Examples of the impact of governor expertise on school improvement includes financial expertise and support for the Senior Leadership Team.

Staff recruitment

The head teacher and chair/vice chair of governors are trained in “Safer Recruitment”. Governors are involved in the recruitment and selection of teaching staff and use the appointment process to ensure that high quality staff who share the schools mission statement and aims are appointed.

Governor Training

During this academic year governors have received training in a range of subjects including safeguarding, child protection and SEND.

Governor Development Plan

This enables the governing body to demonstrate its focus on its three core strategic functions: ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding the head teacher and Senior Leaders to account for educational performance of the school and its pupils; overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

One of the main objectives in preparing the development plan is to align the governors’ focus on its three core strategies with the requirements of the school development plan, training requirements and any requirements arising from the Ofsted inspection.

Impact statement – review:

The governing body, the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team and indeed all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school.

This level of dedication and expertise has demonstrated itself in our excellent Phonics and KS2 national test results. It is also demonstrated in the allocation and imaginative use of Sports funding so as to further inspire and up skill teaching staff and pupils.