

Annual Governor Statement for the Governing Body of Sidestrand Hall School

Summer 2018

In accordance with the Government's requirements for all Governing Bodies, the three core strategic functions for the Governing Body of Sidestrand Hall School are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the School and the pupils
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure the money is well spent

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body is made up of twelve members and a Clerk. The membership is as follows:

- 2 Staff Governors (including the Head Teacher)
- 3 Parent Governors (elected by parents)
- 1 Local Authority Governor (elected by local authority)
- 2 Trust Governors (elected from Governing Body)
- 4 Co Opted Governors

Our Governing Body is complete with our latest Governor joining us at Easter this academic year.

The full Governing Body meets four times a year with the three committees meeting each term and reporting back to the full Governing Body. Over the year attendance has been good and all meetings quorate. The Governors come with a wide range of experience and back ground and are selected to offer the school their various skills. The first meeting of the year is combined with a meet the staff session when Governors introduce themselves and staff have the opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions. The Chair of Governors meets regularly with the Head teacher to monitor school life and to support where necessary.

Full names of the Governors, individual roles/responsibilities, and attendance at meetings can be seen on the School Website.

The School has been part of Trust Norfolk-SEN, a trust of special schools in Norfolk. The aim of the Trust is to promote learning and the interests of the family of special schools and the wider SEN community across Norfolk. However some of the schools have become Academy Trusts and left the group which is likely to be closed as it appears to have no future. The Trust has over the last academic years continued to work collectively to produce the NAPs - the Norfolk Assessment Pathways which is the breakdown of the Levels for assessing pupil progress.

The three committees are:

1. School Improvement and Standards - monitoring the quality of teaching and learning, pupil progress data, target setting, the SIDP and SEF
2. Finance, Premises and Personnel - including the monitoring of Health and Safety of the school site, Premises development, staffing, pay, budget setting and ensuring value for money
3. Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare- including the monitoring of Safeguarding, SEN, LAC, Attendance, Behaviour, Residential and GDPR

The work done in the full Governing Body and the committees over the past year

Governors received reports from the Head Teacher and staff covering aspects of school life. Visits were made, either to individual staff members to discuss a particular topic or to classrooms and reports made back to the Governing Body. There were regular inspections of the school site with regard to Health and safety and to ensure the buildings are well maintained.. Governors also joined staff groups eg Senior Leadership meetings

to be involved and to challenge when the School Improvement Plan and Self Evaluation form were written and reviewed. School policy documents were reviewed by the Governors on a regular basis

The school budget was presented by the finance staff and agreed by Governors with a regard to value for money. We approved the start Budget, monthly monitoring reports and completed the Schools Financial Value Statement

Safeguarding procedures were updated and reviewed as part of the annual process and governor training on Prevent undertaken. The new GDPR rules and procedures introduced by the Government are being introduced into school life and compliance is being monitored

The Sixth Form has increased in size and now consists of 4 classes of students following a broad curriculum including Maths and English, but including many options, much off site learning, and work experience opportunities.

The Independent living flat has been used successfully this year by 2 male students, one of whom will be leaving us this July, and will be replaced by another student

The Residential Unit has again seen considerable improvement work over the past year, with refurbishment of bathrooms, toilets, a continuing upgrade of furniture, much re decoration, replacement windows, and the laying of new carpets. The Governors completed a once a term inspection of the Main school provision and Clement Lodge, and checked documentation. Ofsted rated our provision Good this year. Clement Lodge has continued to offer first class boarding facilities to the male residents, and is likely to be receiving a female next September.

Solar- the on line recording and reporting system has been used consistently over the past year and is helpful in identifying pupil's progress against the NAPs levels and progress towards Gateway Qualifications. The system is capable of showing academic progress and attainments of pupils. Governors considered the reports of the Headteacher dealing with pupil performance data and challenged their robustness.

The use of the Pupil Premium, Year 7 catch up, and Primary PE money has been monitored by the Governors and reports can be viewed on the school website.

The Governor led Parents as Partners Project has continued to be successful during this year actively supporting parents / carers with a regular group meeting to share and discuss in the Great Yarmouth area.

Future Plans for School and Governors

The school is seeking to replace the old classroom block with a new building and will be liaising with NCC/LA to find out costs and feasibility. The Governors are setting up a Fundraising Group to bid for money to spend on various projects to benefit the children.

Plans are going ahead to set up a Library Bus for pupils to access regularly on site. Conversion is in progress

The curriculum will continue to develop to enable pupils to be equipped for life after school. As the school is growing in numbers and in the light of the differing complex needs pupils have we must be ready to move forward.

Staff training will be a priority where the Complex needs of pupils require it. SALT and THRIVE will continue to be an integral part of the Curriculum.

The school mission statement begins with 'Achievement beyond expectation' and the Governors support the Head Teacher and staff in making this a reality. The ethos of the School is for the staff to be supportive, encouraging and challenging for the pupils and the Governors follow this aim. We will be reviewing the school Ethos, Vision and Values during the next academic year.

The desire of the school is to extend the use of the facilities over 50 weeks of the year.

How can you contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and carers. Contact can always be made to the Chair, via the school office.