

# Annual Governor Statement for the Governing Body of Sidestrand Hall School

## Summer 2019

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:

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the School and the pupils

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 has 2 vacancies due to resignations 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 three committees are:

School Improvement and Standards – monitoring the quality of teaching and learning, the Curriculum, Educational Visits, pupil progress data, target setting, the SIDP and SEF

Finance, Premises and Personnel – including the monitoring of Health and Safety of the school site, the Business Continuity Plan and Asset management plan, Premises development, staffing, salaries, budget setting and ensuring value for money

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare- including the monitoring of Safeguarding, SEN, LAC, Attendance, Behaviour, the Residential Provision, and GDPR compliance.

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

Governors have been involved in the Interview process for new appointments.

Governors received reports from the Head Teacher and staff covering aspects of school life. Key staff were invited to make presentations to the Governors. 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 as well maintained as possible given the age and nature of our buildings. 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. Governors approved the start Budget, monthly monitoring reports, revisions, and completed the Schools Financial Value Statement. Governors have become involved with Fundraising and the Strands Charity working closely with the Business Manager

Safeguarding procedures and training were updated and reviewed as part of the annual process.

Governors approved a new online system covering Child protection issues which has been introduced this term. Compliance with GDPR rules and procedures introduced by the Government has been monitored.

Monitoring of the Sixth Form provision has continued and has led to some reorganisation, and a new timetable to ensure a broad curriculum including Maths and English, but including many options, much off site learning, and work experience opportunities.

The Residential Unit has again seen considerable improvements. A small team of Governors has completed a once a term inspection of the Main school provision and Clement Lodge, and checked documentation. Ofsted rated our provision Good again this year. Clement Lodge has continued to offer first class boarding facilities to the residents including 2 females this year. Governors have been impressed by the commitment of staff to the personal development of our boarders.

Solar- the on line recording and reporting system has been used consistently over the past year and has helped identify pupil's progress against the NAPs levels and progress towards Gateway Qualifications. The system has been adapted to show academic progress and attainments of pupils. Governors considered the reports of the Head teacher dealing with pupil progress data and challenged their robustness, seeking clarification and explanation where necessary.

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.

Governors approved the installation of new online systems to improve the way staff maintain up to date information about the students.

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. An additional venue has been booked for meetings from September for those families living in the Norwich area. The private Facebook parent group also run by Governors also provides support and information.

#### Future Plans for School and Governors.

The Library Bus conversion is in still in progress but should be available to students from September.

The curriculum continues 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 will continue 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, and a new initiative called Strategies will be introduced to the benefit of students.

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. Governors have led a review of the school Ethos, Vision and Values during this academic year and evidence of this should soon be available on the Website. Staff, parents and students have all been involved in this process.

Next year Governors will be working with staff to ensure a realistic Asset management plan and Business Continuity plan are in place, and monitoring changes to the Curriculum, and also Staff Wellbeing.

A future aim is to consider how the use of the facilities could be increased.

#### How you can 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.