

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

## Summer 2020

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 had no vacancies this academic year. The full Governing Body usually meets four times a year with the three committees meeting each term and reporting back to the full Governing Body. However due to the Covid 19 crisis we were unable to hold meetings after March and business was conducted via Governor Hub until July. Governors have received the official Government and LA documentation and been in regular contact with the Head and Deputy throughout this period, advising and supporting as necessary. Meeting attendance was good and all meetings held were 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, SEND, 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 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. Link Governors met with key staff to gain information and challenge progress regarding targets on the School Improvement Plan, and an updated School Self Evaluation document was approved. School policy documents were reviewed on a regular basis and governors involved in the Interview process for new appointments.

The school budget was presented by the School Business Manager 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 continue to be involved with Fundraising and the Strands Charity working in a small group set up for this. The Chair of the Finance Committee does a monitoring visit termly to verify documentation. The School Business Manager reported termly on aspects

of Site management. Safeguarding procedures and training were updated and reviewed as part of the annual process. Governors received updates of the use of the online systems covering Child protection issues, attendance and behaviour. Compliance with GDPR rules and procedures has been monitored. Governors ensured that Performance Management was carried out across the Staff by the Head and Deputy, and a panel of Governors carried out the Headteachers' Performance Management. With the new Ofsted focus on curriculum, Governors are currently monitoring a Curriculum review which will lead to an improved offer to pupils with more coherence and consistency across subjects, progression through Key stages.

The Residential Units have seen further 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. Governors have again 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, EYFS programme and progress towards Gateway Qualifications. The system has been adapted to show academic progress and attainments of pupils.

Scholarpack is also now being used to record progress to EHCP targets, and Behaviour. Governors considered the reports of the Head teacher dealing with pupil progress data and challenged their robustness, seeking clarification and explanation where necessary from the member of staff responsible.

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 during this year actively supporting parents / carers with a group meeting to share and discuss in the Great Yarmouth area. An additional venue has been chosen for meetings for those families living in the Norwich area. The private Facebook parent group also run by Governors also provides support and information.

The Library Bus conversion was completed and pupils had begun to access it before the school closure in March. Governors are currently monitoring the new Accelerated reader programme which has been introduced to strengthen reading progress across the whole school.

The Strategies project launched in September is well embedded in the school timetable providing pupils with the extra help needed in the areas identified on their EHCPs to help them meet their targets.

Our mission statement is 'Achievement beyond expectation' and the Governors support the Head Teacher and staff in making this a reality for every individual. The ethos and values of the School - to be supportive, encouraging, caring and challenging for the pupils promoting independence but in a fun but safe environment. Governors led a review of the school Ethos, Vision and Values which has continued into this year involving pupils, staff and parents.

#### Future Plans for School and Governors.

One of our priorities is to ensure the curriculum continues to develop to enable pupils to be equipped for life after school. Our curriculum review is underway but has proved to be a much more extensive exercise than initially anticipated, so we will continue to work on it, and with the Covid 19 crisis it is likely that the changes will be brought in gradually. Our aim is to provide a broad, balanced curriculum with cohesion and progression throughout the whole school.

Staff Wellbeing and workload is another priority area for Governors' consideration this next year. We will be supporting the Staff where possible.

As our buildings are not up to modern standards it is necessary for us to be planning for improvement to the facilities. There is a great need for replacement classrooms so we will be supporting the Head in finding a way forward.

#### 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.