

Annual Governor Statement for the Governing Body of Sidestrand Hall School

Summer 2021

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 some changes during this academic year. In October an Associate member was appointed to assist with monitoring and Development of the Curriculum, in January a new Parent Governor was elected, in February a new Staff Governor was elected, and in March another member of Staff was appointed as an Associate member. 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 ongoing Covid 19 situation most of the Meetings have been held via Team, and some business was conducted via Governor Hub. 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, ensuring all Covid guidelines have been followed. In spite of this meeting attendance was good and all meetings held were quorate. The Governors come with a wide range of experience and background and are selected to offer the school their various skills. The first meeting of the year is usually combined with a meet the staff session when Governors introduce themselves and staff have the opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions, although this was not possible last September. The Chair of Governors has been in regular contact with the Head or Deputy 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 written reports from the Head Teacher and staff covering aspects of school life as it was not possible to invite key staff to make presentations to the Governors. Very few visits were made this year due to Covid. Information relating to the school site with regard to Health and Safety and Maintenance was provided in the form of the School Business Manger's termly Report. Link Governors were encouraged to maintain contact via email or phone calls to key staff to gain information and challenge progress regarding targets on the School Improvement Plan. School policy documents were reviewed on a regular basis and the 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, although many events planned for this year were not able to take place. 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 are currently planning for September for the Headteachers' Performance Management.

With the Ofsted focus on curriculum, Governors are currently monitoring the Development of the Curriculum which will be based on the 3 levels of Curriculum – Pre-formal, Semi-formal, and Formal which will lead to an improved offer to pupils with more coherence and consistency across subjects, progression through Key stages. A new leadership structure has been put in place this term including new Curriculum Leads and an allocated set up budget for each Curriculum area.

The Residential Units have not been used consistently this year due to Covid. The Main House provision was closed during lockdown although Clement Lodge did remain open. Staffing issues have prevented a return to full occupation. Governors have completed short half termly inspections and checked documentation as it was not feasible to invite anyone from outside. Ofsted have not made their annual inspection this year although the Head of Care has spoken to our Inspector and updated on our position. Governors were pleased at the way the Residential staff set up and conducted Covid testing for the school, and how adaptable they have been since the return of our boarders.

Solar-the on-line recording and reporting system has been used consistently over the past year and has helped monitor pupil's progress against the NAPs levels, EYFS programme and progress towards Gateway Qualifications. The system continues to need adapting to show academic progress and attainments of pupils. Scholarpack continues to be used to record progress towards EHCP targets, and Behaviour, although due to much home schooling there is less evidence recorded than usual.

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

The Governor led Parents as Partners Project has not been able to meet during this year. A new venue has been chosen for meetings which will hopefully resume in the Autumn in the Norwich area. The private Facebook parent group also run by Governors provides support and information and has been the main means of communication during Covid.

A new Library has been set up to supplement the Library Bus and the Accelerated reader programme has continued to strengthen reading progress across the whole school.

The Strategies project is well embedded now 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 await the launch of the results of the school Ethos, Vision and Values review which has been delayed due to Covid.

Future Plans for School and Governors.

One of our priorities is still to ensure the curriculum continues to develop to enable pupils to be equipped for life after school. Our aim is to provide a broad, balanced curriculum with cohesion and progression throughout the whole school. We hope to develop more outdoor learning and improve the pupils' Mental and Physical Health.

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

As some of our buildings are not up to modern standards there is a great need for replacement classrooms so we continue to support the Head in finding a way forward especially as the school numbers are increasing each year. A new road access for the school is urgently needed.

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.