

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

## Summer 2022

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. The Staff Governor changed in March and again in May, and during this last term 2 of our Parent Governors have resigned due to work commitments, and one of the Co- opted Governors. We are currently looking to recruit to these vacancies. 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. Some of our meetings were held at school with some members choosing to join via Teams, but in spite of this meeting attendance was quite 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 usually combined with a meet the staff session when Governors introduce themselves and staff have the opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions, and last September we held the meeting with just the new staff present and all others attended via Teams. 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 or verbal reports from the Head Teacher and staff covering aspects of school life and it was possible to invite key staff to make presentations to the Governors. As the year progressed visits were increased as Covid declined. 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. 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 also made termly monitoring visits to the Residential areas to carry out the Standard 20 checks. A small group of Governors attended training on the CPOMs system, and

also took part in a session based on APTGO considering the Leadership and Management sections as preparation for the new SEF document.

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 embedding of the Curriculum which is based on the 3 levels – Pre-formal, Semi-formal, and Formal which has led to an improved offer to pupils with more coherence and consistency across subjects, progression through Key stages. The new leadership structure put in place including new Curriculum Leads and an allocated set up budget for each Curriculum area has worked well, and the final Curriculum maps should be available soon. The Pastoral system based on Houses has been less successful so will be restructured for September into more age based phases.

The Residential Units have been more widely used this year and Ofsted made their annual inspection. Governors were pleased at the way the Residential staff have adapted given the complexity of boarders needs. Two new RCCO's have been appointed and the Management of Residential has been restructured. Solar-the on-line recording and reporting system is still being used and has helped monitor pupil's progress against the NAPs levels, EYFS programme and progress towards Gateway Qualifications. The system needs much input to show academic progress and attainments of pupils and may need to be replaced in order to provide the data in the format we need. Scholarpack continues to be used to record progress towards EHCP targets, and Behaviour. Attendance has fallen just short of our targets due to Covid related issues. The use of the Pupil Premium, and PE money has been monitored by the Governors and annual reports can be viewed on the school website. School visits and trips have gradually been re-introduced.

The Governor led Parents as Partners Project has not been able to meet during this year, so a new venture this term was a Zoom meeting. The private Facebook parent group also run by Governors provides support and information.

The Strategies project continues to provide pupils with the intervention 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 embed 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. We are looking to change some of our qualifications range for KS4/5

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 we look forward to replacement classrooms and the new road access for the school which is still urgently needed. A Mobile classroom is being refurbished as living quarters and will be used to teach independent living skills.

Next year our school will be led by a Co Headship as our Headteacher prepares for retirement and the Deputy takes over her responsibilities. This is part of our succession planning.

#### 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.