

Annual Governor Statement
for the Governing Body of Sidestrand Hall School
Summer 2023



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. We have appointed 2 new parent Governors and one Co- opted Governor, working this year with a Minutes Secretary rather than a full Clerk. The full Governing Body met four times with the three committees meeting each term and reporting back to the full Governing Body.

Meeting attendance has been 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 combined with a meet the staff session, when Governors introduced themselves and staff had the opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions. The Chair of Governors has been in regular contact with the 2 Co-Head teachers 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 [including new posts] to make presentations to the Governors.
- 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 and visits 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 governors were 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 at an extra meeting in April, 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 with DPO being appointed to oversee this.
- Governors also made termly monitoring visits to the Residential areas although we no longer perform the Standard 3 checks.
- Governors ensured that Performance Management was carried out across the Staff by the Head and Deputy, and carried out the Headteachers' Performance Management.
- With the Ofsted focus on curriculum, Governors have been monitoring the further development of the Curriculum which is based on the 3 levels - Pre-formal, Semi-formal, and Formal - and seen evidence of an improved offer to pupils with more coherence and consistency across subjects, progression through Key stages.
- The leadership structure put in place using Curriculum Leads has been embedded and the final Curriculum maps should be available soon.
- The Pastoral system was restructured this year into age-based phases. New job descriptions have been written to reflect new responsibilities.

- The Residential Units have been widely used this year and Ofsted made their annual inspection rating it Good. Governors were pleased at the way the Residential staff have adapted given the complexity of boarders needs.
- The Management of Residential has been restructured and the 2 managers have worked well embedding the new Minimum standards and improving the offer to Boarders. There is a much more cohesive approach across all Units with staff promoting new Theme evenings and links with the Community.
- A replacement for Solar the on-line recording and reporting system monitoring pupil's progress has been researched and selected. The new system should show academic progress and attainments of pupils and provide the data in the format needed including Behaviour, and replace the current MI system.
- Attendance has fallen just short of our targets due to a small minority of pupils.
- 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 taken place regularly.
- The Governors continue to reach out to Parents and Families via the private Facebook group providing 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 with 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.
- This year has seen the school led by a Co-Headship as our current Head looks forward to retirement and our Co Head /Deputy takes over as Head ensuring consistency and stability for our pupils.

Future Plans for School and Governors

The school is currently involved in a DFE new classroom rebuild programme which will have massive impact on the whole site for the foreseeable future. There will be considerable disruption for all who work and study here but we hope the end result will provide a whole new learning environment for pupils in years to come. With the new appointment of a Parent support officer Governors hope to develop the work supporting Families. Our new Head teacher will be supported by Governors as she leads the school forward from September.

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.