

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

## Summer 2024

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 been quite stable during this academic year. We have appointed 1 new parent Governor and two Co- opted Governors, working this year with a member of staff taking on the role of 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 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 [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 Manager'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 receive information regarding Fundraising and how any funds from the Strands Charity are spent. Safeguarding procedures and training were updated and reviewed as part of the annual process. Governors received regular updates of the use of the online systems covering Child protection issues, attendance and behaviour. In particular a new monitoring and reporting system was initiated by the Safeguarding Governor and staff which has proved successful. Compliance with GDPR rules and procedures has been monitored with DPO continuing to oversee this and a new Staff member developing his role. Governors also made termly monitoring visits to the Residential areas and monitored 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 working well and all Curriculum maps are available. Ofsted rated the school as Good in November 23. The Pastoral system, now restructured into age-based phases, has continued to develop this year. Pupil voice is evidenced through the School Council meetings.

The Residential Units have been widely used this year and Ofsted made their annual inspection rating it Outstanding. 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 set up and it's use developed this year. Arbor, also an MI system, shows academic progress and attainments of pupils and provide the data in the format needed, including timetables and base line data. 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 available annual reports can be viewed on the school website. School visits and trips have taken place regularly.

The Parent Governors continue to reach out to Parents and Families via the private Facebook group providing support and information, alongside the work being done by the Parent Support Officer.

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 our new Head who has done a great job in ensuring consistency and stability for our pupils.

#### Future Plans for School and Governors.

The use of Arbor will develop further over the next year.

The school is currently awaiting a DFE new classroom rebuild programme which will have massive impact on the whole site for the foreseeable future. There will be considerable disruption, and inevitably a period of change for all who work and study here but we are confident that the end result will provide a whole new learning environment for pupils in years to come. This project has unfortunately been delayed somewhat. Budget issues continue to be a challenge for us to run the school as we would wish to, to provide a safe environment for our pupils and Staff.

#### How you can contact the Governing Body.

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and carers. Contact can be made to the Chair, via the school office – details on the Website.