



Snape Wood Primary School

Governing Body Impact Statement for 2020/21

1. Introduction

The last 18 months has been incredible challenging and we have all learnt how to adapt and manage in unprecedented times.

The Covid19 global pandemic changed the way the school operates, remote and blended learning were introduced, health and safety, safeguarding and pupil and staff well-being became a priority. Huge burdens were placed upon every process within the school.

However, we focus on the positives, of which there has been many, which have come out of this:-

- The appointment of a new Senior Leadership Team;
- Staff recruitment;
- Supporting local families, with a focus on those who need it the most;
- Snape Wood food parcel deliveries;
- Engagement with parents.

We as a Governing body are proud of how the school has risen to these challenges.

2. The role of the governing body

Our role, in terms of the strategic running and leadership, is key. The functions that we are responsible for are embedded in the law, which states "the purpose of Governing Bodies is to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school".

Reference to the DfE Governance handbook states effective governance means:-

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

It also requires that Boards must be ambitious for all children and young people and infused with a passion for education and a commitment to continuous school improvement that enables the best possible outcomes.

Governance must be grounded in reality as defined by both high-quality objective data and a full understanding of the views and needs of pupils/students, staff, parents, carers and local communities. It should be driven by inquisitive, independent minds and through conversations focussed on the key strategic issues which are conducted with humility, good judgement, resilience and determination.

3. Constitution of the Governing Body and plan to strengthen based on skills gaps.

The governing body consist of 10 Governors:-

- 5 x co-opted governors
- 1 x Head
- 1 x Local Authority governor
- 2 x parent governors
- 1 x staff governor



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The governing body currently has two vacancies.

During the year the governing body identified skills gaps and have co-opted an SEND specialist, a local councillor who has sound knowledge of the local community and an officer from the Local Authority, who leads on admissions and admission appeals, is also a JP and a former pupil of Snape Wood Primary School.

4. Our meeting structure

The full Governing Body meets twice each term with one meeting focused on Standards and the other on Business. The finance committee meet immediately prior to the full governing body meeting and the School Improvement Working group meet twice each term and report back to the full governing body.

Standards meetings

- Review the progress pupils are making;
- Assess how pupil progress is reflected in the school's data;
- Ensure the school is on track to deliver on the key areas of focus in the School Improvement Plan;
- Overview of staff and pupil well-being and safeguarding;
- Overview of funding spend and impact (Pupil Premium, Sports/PE and Covid catch up).

Business meetings

- Review and approve school policies to ensure that they comply with statutory requirements;
- Report from the finance committee on the school budget and financial matters;
- Health and safety including building maintenance.

We also have a Pay Committee that meet annually to hear recommendations from the Head following teachers appraisals

5. Governor training, development and induction

Every Governor has access to comprehensive training opportunities provided by The Education Governance Service, Nottingham. This training continued throughout 2020/2021 via live online training sessions, with a full programme of training being offered.

New governors are required to attend induction training to ensure that they have appropriate information about their roles. All governors can access a broad range of training to allow them to continually develop their skills.

6. Link governors and school visits

Each Governor also takes on a link responsibility. The current link roles are:-

- School improvement priorities
- Health and safety
- Pupil Premium, Sports Funding and Catch up funding
- Safeguarding



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- SEND
- Pupil and staff well-being

During 2020-2021 monitoring has been carried out remotely, with some in person as circumstances have changed during the year. All visits have been Covid compliant and in line with appropriate risk assessments.

A verbal monitoring report is presented to the full governing body at the next meeting, where any recommendations/action points will be discussed.

7. School Improvement focus

This year, the main areas for improvement at the beginning of the year were:

Priority 1

Continue to improve the teaching of Synthetic Phonics, Early Reading and Reading Skills across school, so that all pupils make expected and more than expected progress.

Priority 2

Continue to develop the quality of leadership and management of the school at all levels in order to have maximum impact on pupil outcomes.

Priority 3

Improve the provision in EYFS in order to raise the attainment and achievement of all pupils from their starting points;

Priority 4

To improve SEN provision and SEN leadership at the school, including vulnerable children (PP, FSM, EAL, bottom 20%, GDS), thereby closing the attainment gap between them and their peers. (Leadership and Management). We will continue to work with the head teacher to review the situation and agree new priorities going into the next academic year.

Priority 5

To implement a PSHE and RSE curriculum which empowers children.

Priority 6

Implement a catch-up provision plan for English and Maths (Quality of Education).

8. Impact of the governing body

The Governing Body undertook a rigorous recruitment process for teaching staff, an Assistant Head and Deputy Head, some of which, due to lockdown, were completed virtually.

Governing body meetings have been held virtually and while attendance at virtual meetings has not been an issue, the focus on priorities have shifted. Snape Wood Primary School is in an area of high deprivation, so safeguarding and pupil-wellbeing became our focus. The support provided to vulnerable families and monitoring of vulnerable children has been reported at meetings.



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Governors initiated the food hamper project and secured sponsorship from the local Morrisons and Tesco supermarkets. A local business also made a sizeable donation to support the project for a year.

Covid catch up funding, the spend an impact is reported termly and pupil and parent surveys have provided a picture of anxieties and concerns from the lockdowns and re-integration back into school life. During the period of school closure an emergency committee at a governor level was formed to enable decisions to be formed on a timely basis as situations evolved.

9. Outcomes for pupils.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there has been no official testing of children in 2020/21, therefore there are no results to draw comparisons with prior years.

However, internal monitoring has taken place to assess the baseline for each child. This has been used to assess the positions for every child and recognise how to move forwards where gaps in knowledge have been identified.

10. Statutory duties

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a specific link role delegated to the Chair. Reviews of the single central record are completed termly and an annual safeguarding audit, in line with DfE guidance, is reported to the governing body and any recommendations for improvement are followed up.

Health and safety

Health and safety is reported at full governing body business meetings and during the last year risk assessments were regularly updated and reviewed by governors.

GDPR

GDPR compliance is reviewed termly at the full governing body meetings.

Website compliance

A member of the Governing body has recently completed an annual check for website compliance, resulting in some minor changes to ensure regulations had been adhered to.

11. Next steps

The governing body is placing a priority of the wellbeing of staff and pupils after a challenging year. Discussions on how best to support the school are ongoing and will continue into the new academic year.

Discussion on the benefits and drawbacks of virtual meetings will continue. Engagement needs to remain high and be effective.

We need to be responsive to the Covid 19 pandemic. School priorities need to take into account what has and has not been completed and the situation as it currently is.