

Alfreton Park Community Special School
Governors Annual Statement – Impact Report 2020/21

“The Governors now offer more support and challenge to school leaders” (Ofsted November 2016).

Core Functions of the Governing Board

Our aim as Governors is to ensure that all pupils are achieving their full potential through access to our school curriculum whilst valuing and respecting cultural diversity, gender, additional need and disability. This statement is part of the Governors evaluation process.

Governor Priorities

- 1) To secure the best possible outcomes for pupils by strengthening leadership skills of all stakeholders.
- 2) To secure the best possible outcomes for pupils by improving quality of teaching, learning and assessment.
- 3) To secure the best outcomes for pupils by focussing on personal development, behaviour and welfare.
- 4) To secure the best possible outcomes for pupils by developing adequate premises, resources and financial performance of the school.
- 5) Holding the Head Teacher to account whilst setting the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school.

Governor Attendance

During 2020/21 the Governing Board operated with 2 committees

- 1) Resource Management Committee – The aim of which is to monitor each years School Improvement Plan and make clear links to the annual budget plan, whilst adhering to all school finance regulations, procedures and ensure the budget is managed effectively.
- 2) Performance Management/ Pay Committee – The aim of which is to review the staffing structure annually in relation to the school’s needs and to hold the Head Teacher to account.

Governors’ oversight of Teaching, Learning and Pupil Achievement is seen as a key responsibility for all Governors, therefore this is an item for the Full Governing Body meetings. This ensures that all Governors are informed and have the possibility to question in detail the quality of provision that the school delivers for its pupils. This also means that all Governors should be aware and able to challenge appropriately data and information on Student performance.

From November 2020 a Change Committee was formed to oversee the move to our new school building.

Attendance to all committees and full Governing meetings has proven to be outstanding as in accordance with previous years. There are no causes of concern at the level of commitment shown by any members. Before the COVID pandemic Governors had continued to visit other schools, local groups, federation and national meetings in order to share good practice.

Also, before the COVID pandemic Governors had continued to visit school on a regular basis, taking part in activities with pupils, attending training with staff and whole school events. Each class benefits from having a Governor Buddy and named Governors are linked to a curriculum aspect which they will oversee.

The impact of these visits includes;

- A thorough understanding of the school and how it performs
- A renewed focus on the strength and weakness of the school
- A much improved dialogue with children/staff/parents and carers
- A sharing of information at Governors' meetings and actions required

Governors have now begun to resume these activities, for example in October 2021 all the Governors attended a whole school Inset day, where the focus was on the development of the school's curriculum.

School Development Plan

Governors work and co-operate with the Head Teacher and the SLT in writing and monitoring the SDP. The current SDP is based on the school evaluation and Ofsted priorities. Governors have undergone training on how to improve and focus the SDP to achieving the aims set out.

Governors are hoping to resume their visits to school as part of their monitoring of the SDP.

Governors review all relevant policies on a timetabled basis to ensure that all information is current, specific attention is paid to ensure school complies with the Department of Education's policy list and that of the Local Authority.

Governor Training and Development Plan

The school continues to buy into the Derby and Derbyshire Governance Partnership who provide training workshops. Governors have continued their high level of commitment and regularly attend training which is discussed and agreed each term.

Impact Summary

This year has had many challenges, due to the pandemic. However, the Governing Board have still strived to continue to ask questions and challenge the Headteacher. They now hope to resume a greater role within school and return to the frequent visits which were a feature of their work before the pandemic.

In 2017/2018 a new school building was approved by Derbyshire County Council. The Governors continue to work the LA and SLT to plan for this. A Change Committee has been formed comprising a group of Governors and key personnel within School to oversee the issues associated with the new building, whose planned completion is January 2022.

Future and Continuous Improvement

The Governing Board and SLT are committed to improving school in order to gain and Ofsted “Outstanding judgement and ensure it continues to uphold our ethos of *“Learning Together for Personal Success”*.

Ongoing and future areas of improvement are:

- A new website
- To continue to raise and maintain pupil standards
- To shape plans for the new school after the pandemic.

In September 2021 our long standing and highly committed Headteacher took retirement. Mrs Smart is still engaged with the work of the School, in particular providing continuity over the transfer to our new School. The Governors will shortly begin a recruitment process for a new Headteacher.