

Governors Annual Statement to Parents

Academic Year 2022-23

The past academic year was the first “normal” school year since 2019-20 and it has been good for this sense of normality to return.

It was also the first time since March 2017 that the school had been subject to an Ofsted inspection.

I am sure that at the time, you read the Ofsted report, but I still think that it is worthwhile repeating the conclusions, which were as follows:

- *Pupils at Chase Lane Primary enjoy school life. They are kind, friendly and respectful to each other. Staff care about the pupils and their families. They know the pupils well and do everything they can to meet pupils’ individual needs. There is a true spirit of community here.*
- *Leaders have high expectations of pupils’ behaviour. From the early years, they establish a set of ‘golden rules’. This helps to create a calm and orderly environment. Pupils behave well. They listen to teachers, follow instructions and work hard. Bullying is rare. When it does happen, leaders deal with it effectively. Pupils are safe here.*
- *Pupils take an active part in the life of the school. Leaders meet with members of the school council and listen to pupils’ views. Pupils’ ideas help to develop the school, for example, in its approaches to behaviour and sustainability. Older pupils take on roles as well-being ambassadors, sports leaders and prefects.*
- *Leaders provide pupils with a diverse range of opportunities to broaden their experiences. Pupils attend forest school and there are various other activities, such as sports, choir, gardening, and theatre club. This is a school where pupils can develop their talents and interests.*

We also saw that academic performance across the school continued to be very good. At the end of both Key Stage 1 and 2, the results achieved are, in most cases, above national benchmarks.

It has also been great to note the positive impact of the Forest School and the upgrading of the school library offer.

Finally, recognising the importance to us all of the environment, it was pleasing to note that the school won the best newcomer award across London from Transport for London for green and sustainable travel practice

The Governing Body are incredibly proud of the quality of the work, the commitment and effort of all staff at the school.

We would also like to recognise the similarly fantastic efforts of pupils and parents and carers in their on-going commitment to learning through this period.

Governance Arrangements

At the start of the 2023/24 academic year, the Governing Body comprises 13 members and is made up as follows:

- 4 parent governors
- 1 Local authority governor
- 1 staff governor
- The Head Teacher
- 6 co-opted governors, appointed individually by the Governing Body

The Governing Body is supported by a governance clerk from the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

Our annual meeting planner helps us to ensure that all topics which we are required to discuss each year are covered plus we discuss all other important matters as and when they arise.

We have the following sub-committees:

- Curriculum, Standards & Inclusion – the terms of this committee include oversight of diversity and inclusion, delivery of the school curriculum, safeguarding, attendance/persistent absence, pupil behaviour and monitoring the academic performance of all children.
- Finance & General Purposes – the terms of this committee cover all matters related to finance, personnel and pay.
- Pay – this committee provides oversight on the performance management and pay progression of staff.
- Head teacher's performance management – this committee is responsible for the performance management of the head teacher and makes recommendations on pay progression to the Governing Body.

Attendance Record and Skills Analysis

Attendance at meetings of the Governing Body and sub-committees has been very good throughout the academic year and all meetings have been quorate.

Members of the Governing Body complete an annual skills self-assessment to inform training and development needs and to help identify gaps that can be filled when recruiting for vacancies. We believe that collectively we have the requisite mix of skills to fulfil our responsibilities.

Effectiveness and Impact of the Governing body

At the start of each academic year the head teacher and senior leadership team establish a set of priorities for the year.

The priorities for 2022/23 were as follows:

- Maintain robust provisions to ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of all pupils and staff
- Monitor the impact on progress of the data tracking system for High, Middle and Lower attainers including SEND and disadvantaged.
- Increase learning opportunities by maintaining attendance above national target 96%
- Further, improve reading provision and enhance the positive culture of reading across the school

Throughout the academic year, the Governing Body monitored the progress of the school in working through these priorities and we are pleased to report that a positive impact was achieved in all 4 areas.

Conclusion

We believe that the Governing Body has been able to demonstrate that it provides a good level of governance.

In the December 2022 Ofsted inspection report it was stated:

“Governors hold leaders to account and fulfil their statutory responsibilities well. Together, school leaders and governors ensure that they serve the local community.”

We recognise that there are always improvements to be made and are committed to continuous improvement and are ambitious for the governance of the school and the impact of governance on school improvement. We consider, however, that there are no key areas of governance requiring significant improvement.

The Governing Body has remaining focused on providing challenge to ensure that the school is doing the best that it can, often in difficult circumstances, to continue to provide the best education possible for its pupils.