

Annual Statement of the Governing Body 2022-23

The Governing Body meets each half term to consider a wide range of issues, supported by the Resources and Finance Committee and the Curriculum and Community Committee. In addition, there are a number of small working groups as needed. Governors are also trustees of the Voluntary Fund.

We have four core strategic functions which are:

- 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 performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent
- Ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard

Each year the Governing Body considers:

- The vision and ethos of the school
- Standards of attainment and progress of all year groups and groups of children across the school
- Attendance and punctuality
- Staffing structure and appointments
- Finance
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding
- Regular review of the School Development Plan and the School's Self Evaluation
- Behaviour
- Well being
- Appraisal of all staff

During the 2022-23 school year, the Governors have in particular focused on:

- Establishing face to face meetings and school visits when appropriate
- New staff appointments
- Approval of the arrangement for the Headteacher's role to be shared between Mrs Barrington and Mrs Pitcher
- Reviewing the whole curriculum for Grand Avenue and checking that curriculum provision meets OFSTED expectations

- Monitoring new and changing national arrangements for assessment for all pupils, especially the return of statutory assessment post Covid
- The use of the government grant for the development of PE and its impact on pupils
- Regular checking of safeguarding and child protection procedures in school
- The use of the Pupil Premium allowance and its impact on pupils and progress of the GAP project for all vulnerable learners
- Reviewing DBS requirements for volunteers in school
- Reviewing our performance as a Governing Body and identifying where we need to improve
- Maintaining a rolling evaluation of the work of the Governing Body and identifying future actions and developments
- Analysing attainment data to help us understand areas where the school is doing well and identifying areas where improvements may be made with a particular focus across school on the teaching of writing and writing across the curriculum
- The work of subject co-ordinators and outcomes in art, PE, computing, English, science and pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant.
- Wellbeing of children and staff post pandemic
- Consideration of curriculum content in all foundation subjects and meeting with curriculum co-ordinators
- Consideration of the provision for children with special needs and disability
- Setting an annual budget within current financial restraints which does not deter from the quality of education offered to children at Grand Avenue
- Supporting the school in achieving the construction of the new STEM and studio building
- Supporting the school and monitoring the impact of Covid on pupil progress and behaviour
- Establishing a Risk Register to mitigate against potential risk to reputation and financial security
- Reviewing governor visibility across the school

Our overall aim is to support and challenge the school in order to achieve the highest quality of education for all its pupils. The above represents a sample of what has been achieved in the 2022-23 year. Governors returned to face to face meetings as a preferred option whenever possible

Training for Governors

During 2022-23 governors have undertaken training in the following areas:

- Understanding your role (for new governors)
- FGB focus – establishing roles and responsibilities
- Directors' termly briefings
- Chairs' network meetings
- Leading in governance
- Focus on racial justice and multilingualism
- Focused governor visits
- Pupil attendance
- Safeguarding children and young people online
- E learning: Safeguarding training
- SEND for governors
- Supporting a whole school approach to mental wellbeing

Governor visits to school have resumed post pandemic. Governors are able to meet with staff and children by arrangement. The focus has been on:

- Premises management including buildings work
- Use of facilities
- Safeguarding
- Use of the pupil premium grant
- Special educational needs and disability
- Discussion with curriculum co-ordinators about their action plans
- Exit interviews
- Health and Safety
- The new STEM building
- Classroom visits
- Celebrations, assemblies and concerts

Together with the Senior Leadership Team of the school, we are grateful to those parents who have supported the Voluntary Fund, GASPA, acted as class reps and volunteered in school in many ways. The Governing Body is extremely appreciative of the efforts made by all at Grand Avenue to support the children and help each child to achieve. We have said goodbye to governors and welcomed new members during the year. The governors are always pleased to welcome Associate Members to the Governing Body who can then become full members when a suitable vacancy arises.

Governors can be contacted through the school office at:
office@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk

Jenny Gresson
 Chair of Governors
 September 2023

