

Governing Board Annual Statement

2020 / 21

The Governing Board of the Beacon Centre works with the Acting Head Teacher and Senior Leadership team to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement. The core function being:

- To ensure clarity in vision, ethos and strategic direction
- To hold the Acting Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance of staff
- To oversee the financial performance of the school, making sure its funding is used effectively to ensure good value for money
- To ensure the school delivers a curriculum based on the needs of our children and which promotes the highest levels of success and achievement for all

The Full Governing Board meets 6 times per year (half termly), discussing and debating a whole range of strategic items. We have separate meetings covering finance and staffing.

We are fortunate to have a Governing Board with such diverse skill sets, experiences and unique interests. Each Governor holds a designated responsibility and will act on behalf of the full Governing Board where appropriate. An important role for governors is ensuring the safety and well-being of the children and we have a nominated Governor for Safeguarding who reports to the wider board on any safeguarding matters.

Governor attendance has been of a good level, with any absences having been fully explained, accepted and approved by the Governing Board. Our Governors are committed to the school community and the collective interests of pupils. Governors make use of the extensive CPD opportunities available to them either through South Tyneside Council or through the National College online learning platform.

As a result, the Governing Board of the Beacon Centre continually seeks to improve the educational provision provided at our school. We take a holistic outlook when considering the development of all of our pupils to ensure they make maximum progress from their individual starting points. We strive to work closely with the Acting Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team and all members of staff to constantly strive to improve and develop the school further. The relationship between the Governing Board, the Senior Leadership Team and staff is based on trust, respect and support. As a result, we have a shared vision which aims to offer an exceptional education for the children attending our school

Key issues that have faced the Management Committee during 2020-21

This year has been an exceptionally demanding and eventful year, yet highly rewarding and productive. Key activities included:

- Appointment of new Chair and Vice Chair of Governors
- Reviewing a new data collection computer programme for monitoring behaviour data and progress and its impact on effective interventions
- Ensure effective wellbeing support for members of staff
- Scrutiny and analysis of interim in-school results of pupil progress
- Monitoring the implementation of the school improvement plan
- Ensuring the continual updating of the SEF
- Discussion of the SIA's visits to the school, the findings within the reports and the implementation of recommended actions
- Managing the long term sickness of members of staff and the staff covering the roles
- Improvement of the school learning environment.
- Ensuring compliance with website statutory requirements.
- Monitoring changes in pupil numbers and the implications for both budget and staffing.
- Budget setting and monitoring and review of school finances.
- Review of school policies and documentation.
- Completion by all governors of the SFVS Financial Management Skills Analysis, results collated and shared anonymously with the governing board
- Appointments of new teaching staff.
- Working alongside the Acting Head Teacher to ensure provision for vulnerable and key workers children during the period of lockdown.
- Supporting the Acting Head Teacher in implementing an effective process of provision to ensure school remained open throughout the lockdown period.
- Monitoring the continued impact on the budget of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Working alongside the Acting Head Teacher to produce a robust and effective risk assessment for children attending school during lockdown.
- Monitoring home learning provision during the lockdown period of COVID-19

Assessment of the impact of the Governing Board on the school during 2020-21

This year, the governing body have supported the Acting Head Teacher to ensure that he was fully supported in his role as he began the work to embed his vision for the school. In addition, they supported the Acting Head in a robust recruitment process to ensure the proposed staffing restructure was completed.

Governors along with the SLT have rigorously monitored the progress of all pupils in the school and are well informed on the success and indeed challenges we face. Governor's make regular visits into school where we can review new initiatives, work alongside senior leaders and observe the impact of the school's work on raising standards.

Following the partial closure of all schools due to the pandemic, the role of the governing body continued remotely. They were heavily involved in agreeing the necessary risk assessments related to COVID-19 and in ensuring the school continued to be supported during this very unprecedented period of time. As a Board, we have been very impressed by pupil engagement, parental support and the outstanding work of staff through these unprecedented times.

As a governing board we are aware of performance data, ensure that all statutory policies are in place, that the school website is compliant and that the curriculum offered to our pupils is broad and balanced.

Key issues for Governors in 2021/22

- To ensure the school has rigorous school improvement documentation in place, which reflects the position and need of the school
- To support the Acting Head Teacher and school in the development of a curriculum which adapts to meet the need of its pupils
- Work towards achieving the Governor Mark of Excellence
- Ensure any vacant governor positions are filled

The Governing Board will continue to support the Acting Head on the delivery of the School Improvement Plan; keep safeguarding at the forefront of everything we do; and implement plans to ensure our financial situation remains very healthy.

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents or pupils.

You can contact the Chair of Governors, Ken Stephenson, via the school office.