

Governing Board Annual Statement

2024 / 25

The Governing Board of the Beacon Centre works with the 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 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. This also includes annual visits to both sites to speak to staff, students and parents / carers. 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 significantly improved in recent years, and 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 Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team and all members of staff to constantly strive to provide supportive challenge, 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 Governing Board during 2023-24

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

- Re appointment of new Chair and Vice Chair of Governors
- Recruiting 3 new Governors to posts held vacant for some years
- 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, including implementation of Staff CPOMs
- 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 significant increases 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 Head Teacher to produce a robust, effective risk assessment and updated Lockdown Policy
- Celebrating with our Yr 11s at our first ever School Leavers Graduation event

Assessment of the impact of the Governing Board on the school during 2023-24

This year, the governing body have supported the Head Teacher to ensure that he was fully supported in his role, as he continues the work to embed his vision for the school.

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 the school where we can review new initiatives, work alongside and challenge senior leaders and observe the impact of the school's work on raising standards.

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 2024 / 25

- Ensure funding streams are accurate and ensure effective provision of resources
- To ensure the school has rigorous school improvement documentation in place, which reflects the position and need of the school
- To support the Head Teacher and school in the development of a curriculum which adapts to meet the need of its pupils
- Support a renewed focus on improving the quality of teaching and learning balanced with protecting the wellbeing and workload of staff
- Ensure any vacant governor positions are filled
- Prepare for provision of additional 16 places in newly constructed onsite resource building

The Governing Board will continue to support the 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, Mrs Louise Pippin, via the school office (0191 454 6254)