Burnside College

Governing Body Impact Statement 2026/27

The Governing Body Role

Our role as a Governing Body plays a key part in the leadership of Burnside College and seeks to ensure that the school provides the best learning experiences for your child, enabling them to reach the best of their capabilities. This Impact Statement seeks to provide information on our role and the impact we have on the school's improvements.

The membership of the Governing Body are all dedicated volunteers investing considerable hardwork, time and goodwill in ensuring the best outcomes for all our children. We have an energetic, progressive and skilled group focussed on supporting the Headteacher and all his staff to shape the strategic direction of our school.

The government holds the Governing Body to account for the performance of our school through 3 core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of its staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school, ensuring its budget is well spent

We have 15 members of the Governing Body consisting of co-opted, trust, headteacher, parent, staff and LA governors. The chair of governors is supported by 3 vice chairs who chair the 3 sub-committees.

1. Curriculum and Achievement
2. Finance Facilities and Compliance
3. School Community

Details of the members of the Governing Body can be found on the schools website.

The Governing Body meets formally 6 times a year with the sub-committees meeting 4 times a year. However, governors also participate in a range of activities to support the school and to ensure that we are effective in delivering our key functions. The majority of governing body members take on specific roles and report back to the Governing Body on a regular basis.

We have link governors for most curriculum areas, which involve governors meeting with curriculum leads to undertake monitoring visits to review work towards the School Development Plan. Meetings include classroom visits and discussions with teachers to review systems, procedures and implementation of policies.

Governors also attend school events including the participation in school training days and CPD sessions.

Through these activities governors ensure that they understand and gain knowledge of areas of strength and weakness of the school. The Governing Body brings together its scrutiny of the school and national/regional data to determine how the school is performing. This enables us to share with the school our findings and to shape the vision and School Development Plan.

Pride, Respect, Achievement

At Burnside we are proud of the history of the community and aim to take pride in what we do. We know the value of working hard and being ambitious in order to change the world around us. We also devote a significant amount of time to the personal development of students to ensure that all young people develop their character as well as the education and skills to be successful and responsible citizens. As governors we fully support and encourage students to engage in the wide range of extracurricular activities.

At Burnside College we promote a strong culture of respect. We are a community and as such there are good relationships between governors, staff and students. The young people who attend Burnside trust staff and know that they will be well supported to be the best they can be. Our students are polite and friendly and respect one and others differences. Governors monitor all behaviour policies and ensure any kind of bullying will not be tolerated.

School Development Plan

The School Development Plan (SDP) is a key document for delivering our vision and strategy and is integral to our ability to hold leadership to account. It is a dynamic document and is used throughout the year to undertake our termly reviews. Crucially it enables the school to focus its resources in those key areas effectively.

The development of the SDP is very much a joint effort between the school leadership team and governing body, and we work closely to ensure that the plan meets the needs of our students.

Governors were involved in reviewing and agreeing the key focus areas of which 5 were Identified:

1. Promote excellent attendance and pupil **engagement**
2. Deliver an excellent **curriculum**, consistently
3. Prepare pupils for adulthood and **success**
4. **Support** and empower our staff
5. Contribute positively to the Wallsend **community**

The governors work closely with the headteacher, senior leadership team and staff to interpret the key focus areas into coherent targets across the school to ensure target measures are identified.

The School Development Plan is monitored at sub-committee and governing body meetings on a regular basis. The key for the Governing Body is to ensure that we hold the school's leadership team to account.

Link Governor's Reviews

To review our student's progress the Governing Body appoints 'link governors', whose role is to work with curriculum leads. This structure enables the Governing Body to provide the interconnection between the school and the governing body. Link governors develop a rapport with the relevant leaders within the school, which enables them to both challenge and support. This is important for the maximum progress to be achieved in all curriculum areas, interventions, children in receipt of pupil premium, safeguarding, personal development, attendance and wellbeing.

Termly reviews are undertaken jointly with the curriculum leaders, which enables link governors to provide a comprehensive report to the Governing Body. The structure of the reviews has been developed over several years and follows an agreed format:

- Focus of visit
- Summary of Activities
- What have I learnt from my visit
- Aspects of which I need clarification and questions I have
- Actions for Governing Body to consider
- Further comments and ideas for future visits

A report is prepared by the link governor to present to the Governing Body.

Data Analysis

Governors work closely with the school to ensure that internal assessments are analysed and a report is prepared termly and reported to the Curriculum and Achievement sub-committee. We continue to review our data and use this to compare against National and Local trends.

Funding

Our Chair of the Finance, Facilities and Compliance sub-committee provides a vital link between the Headteacher and Director of Support Services to continuously review the financial strategy for the school. This ensures that spending is delivered effectively and efficiently. The Governing Body reviews all expenditure in line with the Finance Policy and agrees the budgets on an on-going basis at the Finance, Facilities and Compliance sub-committee and Governing Body meetings.

This is monitored throughout the year and analysis is shared with all governors. The Chair of Governors and Chair of the Finance, Facilities and Compliance sub-committee meet with the Director of Support Services on a regular basis to ensure that pupil premium and other funding is allocated effectively. A regular review is undertaken to ensure that delivery is meeting forecasts.

Governor School Visits

Developing a successful relationship with the school that enables governors to both support and challenge effectively has been key to our Governing Body's strategy.

1. The Chair of Governors meets with the Headteacher at least weekly to discuss current issues
2. Governors are encouraged to visit school and become familiar with the school, staff and pupils. For example school training days
3. Governors are invited to attend open days and events
4. Governors are actively involved in recruitment of staff

Safeguarding

We have a link governor responsible for reviewing safeguarding within the school and reports to the School Community sub-committee and Governing Body.

Policies

Governors review and adopt all relevant policies. They are considered in detail at the relevant sub-committee and governing body meetings. These policies can be found on the school website.

Training

The governing body access training through a number of sources including North Tyneside Council and North Tyneside Learning Trust. New Governors are expected to attend Local Authority training for new governors. We encourage all governors to access training regularly and share new ideas and information.

Conclusion

The governing body has continued to work energetically throughout the last year to ensure we can support the school. The effects of Covid continue to have an impact on school life and will for a while yet. We are appreciative of the hard work, dedication, commitment and professionalism shown by the Headteacher, Mr Jamieson and all staff to ensure our children have the very best chances in life. We are also proud of our students, parents and carers who continue to support the school and show resilience to cope with the increasing challenges of school life. Working together our aim is to ensure our children are safe and happy in their learning.