



Walter Halls Primary School

Governors' Impact Statement

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 6 core strategic functions of Walter Halls Primary School Governing Body are:

1. help the school to set high standards by planning for the school's future and setting targets for school improvement;
2. help to continue to drive school improvement plan;
3. be a critical friend to the school, offering support and advice;
4. help the school respond to the needs of parents and our local community;
5. work with the school on planning and developing policies;
6. to exercise its responsibilities and powers in partnership with the headteacher and staff, not intervene in the day-to-day management of the school.

The main focus of the Walter Halls Governing Body is ensuring that our pupils make good progress in their education and we appreciate that for this to happen, the school must be well-led by a professionally competent leadership team with motivated staff who all work together within a safe, caring, supportive yet professionally challenging environment.

Our schools motto is:

'Be you Best' is key - we want personal development to be at the heart of what we achieve for every child. Being the best possible versions of themselves.

In this statement we aim to outline some of the impact we have on the school through our role of challenge and support during the academic year 2022-23.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Governing Body of Walter Halls Primary School is made up as follows:

Co-Opted Member	Parent Governors	Staff Governors	LA Governor
James Sullivan (Chair)	Katrina Benjamin	Andrea Cox	Leslie Ayoola
Susie Roome	Lucy Robinson		
Alex Epton	Shani Melbourne		
Caroline Brookes			
James Stephenson			

Committees and Meetings

Full Governors meetings are held 6 times a year (2 each term), along with an extra ordinary meeting which is held in April to agree and set the financial budget for the school.

We generally split our meetings into "Strategy and performance" which is held at the start of the term, and "Financial & operational (including personnel) in our second meeting.

At all full governing body meetings Governors receive a report from the Headteacher on all aspects of the running of the school, including quality of teaching and learning, attendance, behaviour and safety. Governors discuss this report and ask questions of the Headteacher thereby improving their knowledge and understanding of the school. It is also an opportunity to challenge the Headteacher and to question aspects of the schools performance. At these meetings we also review the School Improvement Plan, School Financial Value Standards, Self-Evaluation Form and review/set policies with the schools leadership team.

Strategy & Performance

In this meeting we are tasked with ensuring that we fully review the School Improvement plan and scrutinise the current performance of the school against this with the Head Teacher and senior leaders. We also ensure that the school is compliant with policies.

We evaluate the school's current data, identifying trends, and use this as a base to ensure to check that we are meeting the targets on the school improvement plan. An example of this would be to review attendance and help to shape the schools plans to tackle persistent non-attendance. Over the last academic year this is has been vital as all schools get back to normal post the Covid-19 pandemic (where national school attendance has still been a challenge).

We review Pupil premium within this meeting, which is led by our Pupil Premium Governor, along with the Head Teacher.

Examples of extra work conducted during this academic year;

- SEN deep dive across the year with the school and outside agencies
- Setting up of the OPAL Provision
- School Absence monitoring and reporting

Financial & Operational

In this meeting we are tasked with ensuring that all monies allocated to all areas are accounted for and spent accordingly.

The key elements of termly business are discussed and governors hold the Headteacher and school business manager to account for the financial performance of the school as well as approval of the draft and final school budgets.

Governors receive a Pupil Premium Grant Allocation/Provision and Impact report which helps us to assess whether this funding is being spent correctly supporting the highest possible outcomes for these children.

The governing body is competent in financial management.

The governors have worked with school staff to achieve The Schools Financial Value Standard accreditation which is reviewed annually, as well as keeping a safe stewardship of the school finances during a cost of living crisis.

The governors bring a wide range of expertise to the school, and this helps to ensure that budgets are monitored effectively and improvements are effective and continuous. The impact of the governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively, and the school is continually moving forward. We have worked very closely with the business manager and the Nottingham schools trust on the procurement procedures and contracts we have in place. We have used the experience of a governor who has procurement experience in the public sector to deliver efficiencies for the school.

In this meeting, we also look at building maintenance, building improvement and the health and safety audit. The governors have been tirelessly working with the school, and the LA over the school roof improvements which became urgent. Governors understood the impact this had on staff, and children within that provision.

As governors we strive to ensure that our pupils and staff reside in an environment conducive with learning while also providing a feeling of security and wellbeing.

This committee also monitors staff absence, staff well-being and the school staffing structure. We recognise that as governors we need to be the critical friend to the school, but also keeping the well being of staff at the forefront of our mind.

Additional committees linked to resources and finance are:

- SFVS Panel
- Additional meeting regarding 3 year financial planning
- Pay Committee
- Headteacher's Performance Management Committee.

Governor Attendance

Our governors' meetings are well attended ensuring that governors are well aware of the school's strengths and weaknesses and where the school is focussing its energy on improvement. We consider ourselves to be a proactive not a re-active governing body with well committed members who genuinely care about the school and wanting to fulfil their role.

Outside of meetings, we aim to be proactive in school, by supporting the school at events such as the summer fair, meetings with the head students, and working with the Friends of Walter Halls.

Attendance at meetings - Academic Year 2022 -2023												
	Autumn 2022				Spring 2023				Summer 2023			
Governor Name	FGB1 4.10	FGB2 6.12			FGB3 7.2	FGB4 21.3			FGB5 16.5	FGB6 18.7		
James Sullivan	Y	Y			Y	Y			Y	Y		
Susie Roome	Apols	Apols			Apols	Apols			Apols	Apols		
Leslie Ayoola	Apols	Y			A	Y			A	Y		
Katrina Benjamin	Y	Apols			Y	Y			Y	Y		
Caroline Brookes	Y	y			Y	Y				Y		
Diana Clark	A	Y			A	A			Left	Left		
Andrea Cox	Y	Y			Y	Apols			Y	A		
Alex Epton	-	-			-	-			Y New	Y		
Neil Jones	Y	Y			Res	Res			Res	Res		
Shani Melbourne	-	-			Y New	Y				Apols		
Lucy Robinson	Y	Y			Y	Y				Apols		
James Stephenson	Apols	A			A	Apols				Y		
Emma Beardah	Y	Apols			Y	Y			Y	Y		

Individual Governor Responsibilities

As well as attendance at full governing body meetings, Governors have a number of individual responsibilities. Wherever possible linked to our own skills and expertise. We refer to these as "link governors".

Whenever possible due to work commitments governors will try to visit school to discuss relevant areas. If this is not possible, virtual meetings are held with members of staff to ensure that the relevant governors are still carrying out their role. The presence of Link Governors provides an additional source of evidence upon which governing body decisions can be made. This additional evidence should enable the Governing Body to better challenge information presented by the school and also better support the school to meet its strategic objectives. The role of the 'Link Governor' is not to supervise or manage school staff, more to offer guidance, support, and a critical friendship.

The governors are made up with people from different backgrounds, and we use these variety of skills to fit people into the correct area.

Policies

Governors review all relevant policies, during the relevant full governing body meeting on a programmed basis to ensure that they meet the statutory requirements, and that all guidance is relevant and up to date. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list and the Local Authority recommended list.

Training

As a Governing Body we buy into the Nottingham City council training programme, which is offered termly to all governors across Nottingham city schools. This is comprehensive, and wide ranging. New Governors are expected to attend LA training for new Governors.

Governors are encouraged to attend any training that is relevant to their role. Governors may also attend any training that is of particular interest to them.

Sometimes school staff will offer additional support or training if relevant to a governor. In the last year, Governors will also attend webinars from the national governor's association. We have all attended "schools finance in a challenging time" and "safeguarding" over the last year.