

GOVERNING BODY OBJECTIVES 2019 -20 - OUTCOMES

Whilst this document is primarily for the purpose of reporting our achievements against our objectives for the last year, I feel I want to take a moment to address how things were for the School between March 2020 and July 2020, and in particular the achievements of governors during the period of Covid-19 lockdown when so many restrictions and difficulties were presented to us and clear decision-making was required by the governing body to steer and support the School during these unprecedented times.

Despite the difficulties, the governors carried on with the normal business of school governance and adhered to the regular timetable of structured meetings that underpin the successful achievements of the Headteacher and staff.

Our meetings and work took place virtually, using the MS Teams and Zoom platforms. To our surprise, the meetings worked well, allowing the normal discussion and discourse amongst the governors to take place and decisions to be made much as they were before. Additional extraordinary meetings of the board were necessitated by the need to adhere to ever changing guidelines issued by Department for Education.

Objective 1 : Institute a changed method of scheduling and monitoring our business through a new Governor Year Planner and restructure how this work is delegated .

Governor Year Planner

A new, more user-friendly Annual Business Planner was introduced in October 2019 and has become a working document that is regularly updated.

This electronic document is available to all members of the board on the governors' secure area; it shows the division of work between the full governing body (FGB) and the two committees, Finance Personnel & Premises (FPP) and Curriculum (CC), together with the type of work and the review arrangements that each committee has adopted

In order that an audit can be taken each year, the document is backed up with a spreadsheet which records the type of work, when it was due to receive attention by the board, whether the work was completed on time, and if not, the reasons for delay.

Terms of Reference for FGB and all its committees and panels

We have reviewed the methodology that the governing body uses to conduct its formal business right across the spectrum of our responsibilities.

We have considered how we can be most effective at all levels of governance, i.e. FGB level, at committee and panel level, and indeed at individual governor and headteacher level.

This complex piece of work has been undertaken throughout the year by a working group, fully supported by our clerk who has undertaken a large part of the research work as part of her school-based project for her NGA Clerk Development Course.

The group took its early research from the NGA Maintained Governing Body Delegation Planner (published in October 2019) and put broad brush proposals relating to delegation to a meeting of the FGB in order to ensure its approach had the support of all board members.

This work is almost complete. The terms of reference for the governing body and its two main committees can be put to the FGB meeting in October, and the final piece of work for smaller panels will come to the FGB meeting in December.

Objective 2

We will continue to proactively seek the information required from those responsible for action in order that it arrives in a timely way to ensure that the number of deferred items on committees are reduced and thus allow us to complete 95% of statutory tasks, 90% of recommended tasks and 90% of other tasks on time.

The outcomes of these objectives are shown on a separate spreadsheet (FGB, 20.10.20, Agenda item 9 c ii).

Val Royston
Chair, Full Governing Body
October 2020