

LIONEL WALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at Lionel Walden Primary School throughout the course of the 2020-21 academic year.

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government for Lionel Walden Primary School allows for 9 governors across different categories.

The Governing Body Membership currently stands at 9, with the Deputy Headteacher also attending as an Associate member.

Through the course of the 20-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has gained 1 governor to fill the vacancy within the Parent Governor category.

Over the course of the 2020-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has been chaired by Joanne Dale.

The work of the Governing Body has been supported by Mrs L Clarke, as Clerk to Governors.

Over the course of the year, Governors at Lionel Walden Primary School demonstrate an overall positive attendance and engagement with their work. Further information about governor attendance can be found on the school website.

The Structure of Governance

As well as meeting as a Full Governing Body, Lionel Walden Primary School also has three committees, in order to ensure sufficient oversight, support and accountability towards areas of identified priority and statutory coverage. The school names these committees as:

- Appointments Committee – which deals with recruitment;
- Finance Committee – which mainly deals with the budget, Pupil Premium income and expenditure and finances;
- School Improvement Committee – which deals with curriculum, assessment and data, SEND and impact of all interventions.

These committees and the Governing Body overall have a continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and manage the updates of school policies aligned to the particular areas of responsibility. They also have responsibility for the Headteacher's Performance Review.

The School's priorities as outlined in the School Development Plan are:

- To continue to improve outcomes in Reading across the school
- To continue to improve outcomes in Writing across the school
- To continue to improve outcomes in Maths across the school
- To continue to ensure our Curriculum is broad and balanced
- To continue to improve outcomes of specific pupil groups including vulnerable groups and the more able.

Each priority is led by a member of the teaching staff who is a point of contact for a named link Governor. There are also named Governors for Safeguarding and Health & Safety (including Child Health and Attendance), SEND and Early Years.

Committees related to particular purposes such as dealing with complaints or appeals are constituted as they are required, in line with the determining policy guidance.

Impact of the work of the Full Governing Body

Over the course of the last academic year, the Governing Body has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Supporting the school's Risk Assessment with regard to Covid-19 and enabling the safe return to school for children and adults alike
- Receiving updates from the Headteacher and joining in with Remote Learning to inform their work in response to the pandemic, in order to ensure the continued education and safety of all children.
- Performing Monitoring Visits (the majority have been virtual) and writing a report which is shared with the Full Governing Body.

Impact of the work of the Appointments Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Appointments Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Reviewing the staffing when there is staff movement
- Shortlisting (remotely)
- Interviewing within Covid-19 rules with social distancing, increased cleaning and timing between candidates
- To successfully appoint 3 new cleaners, 4 Teaching Assistants and a Midday Supervisor.

Impact of the work of the Finance Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Finance Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Setting a budget, to ensure funds are available for the needs of the school
- Monitoring the budget, to ensure it is kept on track
- Reviewing the income and expenditure at the end of the financial year
- Ensuring that the Catch-Up Premium is invested effectively to provide optimum impact upon children's learning and recovery

School Improvement Committee:

Due to Covid-19 the School Improvement Committee has not met separately, however the areas which it covers have been discussed fully within the Full Governor Body Meetings:

- Ensuring that children have been able to engage in remote learning with access to suitable devices
- Ensuring that school leaders have adapted the school's curriculum to accommodate children's lost learning over the course of the pandemic
- Ensuring that the school has adopted an updated curriculum approach towards teaching children about relationships and sex education, aligned to changes in Government expectations
- Promoting improved attendance for children within school, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds

Governor Training

Our Governors have a wealth of knowledge and experience and we benefit from our different points of view and considerations within meetings. The Governing Body has also benefitted from training courses on the following topics throughout the course of the year;

- Safeguarding – in order to effectively fulfil our duties in quality assuring the safeguarding arrangements for all children at Lionel Walden Primary School
- LA Briefings – in order to remain up to date with latest Local Authority information regarding the approaches towards safe school reopening
- Governor Conference – hearing speakers from within the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Area sharing key information and updates
- Governors attend training relevant to their link roles, for example, Developing and Monitoring the Primary Curriculum.

Governor Monitoring

As well as attending meetings, governors are also expected to visit school to understand more about school life and particular areas of priority (typically linked with different areas of the School Development Plan).

Throughout the course of this year, all named Governors have undertaken at least one particular monitoring in relation to their area: Safeguarding; Reading; Writing; Maths; The Curriculum; Pupil Premium; SEND and Early Years.

Forward Planning

In light of the impact of 20-21, the Governing Body looks forward to returning to a more 'normal' structure to its work in the forthcoming academic year. This will include:

- Ensuring that the school is suitably prepared for OFSTED inspection
- Providing continued oversight regarding the impact of expenditure upon children's outcomes

- Supporting the school to adopt the new Early Years Framework successfully, to become embedded as part of broader school life

Other information and contact

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at www.lionelwalden.cambs.sch.uk. This includes information regarding attendance of governors and their Declarations of Interest.

Alternately, stakeholders are always welcome to engage with the work of the Governing Body by contacting the Chair of Governors via email to chair@lionelwalden.cambs.sch.uk or to the Clerk to the Governing Body via email to office@lionelwalden.cambs.sch.uk.