

Annual Governor Report 2016/2017

The Governing Body, working with the Headteacher, is the key strategic decision maker and vision setter and plays a major part in the school's accountability. We are instrumental in driving up school and pupil performance and in ensuring that the school's resources are used as effectively as possible to deliver the best education we can for all our students.

Our focus is on the three core strategic functions laid down by the Department for Education:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of its staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

How?

Governors work through both full Governing Body meetings and dedicated committees (Welfare; Standards and Achievement; Site, Buildings and Finance; and Littleview) who then report back to the full Governing Body. Under our Link Governor system individual governors, working with school leaders, take responsibility for overseeing specific areas of the school's activities/curriculum. Visits enable Governors to see for themselves what is going on in the school on a regular basis. We also try, between us, to attend as many of the wonderful school productions and events as we can.

School Priorities for 2016/7

Raising Standards

- Drive the vision and the pure potential belief throughout the wider school community
- Secure P8/A8 performance
- Secure performance in new specification courses
- Target poor subject performance
- Reduce variation in quality and performance in subjects and outcomes for disadvantaged students
- Increase aspirations and challenge across the curriculum
- Develop proactive targeted intervention within the mentor system

Teaching and Learning

- Drive whole school pedagogical approach and enhanced monitoring procedures
- Support the staff to identify and develop their own CPL and pedagogical approaches
- Develop a stable, cost effective staffing body

HSG Business

- Continue focus on increased student recruitment

- Maximise business potential
- Expansion of the Hillview brand and marketing

Governor impact in 2016/2017

Strategic Direction:

- Worked with the Headteacher to re-defined the school's vision, values and strategic direction; some further refinement still under way
- Re-vamped governance procedures and the committee structures to enable sharper focus on monitoring and driving up school performance
- Started work with the Senior Leadership Team to define the longer term strategic direction of the school

Holding the Headteacher/school to account:

- Asked the school to review and update its reporting procedures to enable improved performance analysis by governors
- Introduced a link governor system to facilitate governors' ability to monitor progress in addressing the 2016/2017 strategic plan priorities and provide more targeted challenge and support
- Visits to monitor the school's performance management system and conduct performance appraisal of and objective setting with the Headteacher
- Continued monitoring, review and challenge of the school's performance against the targets/priorities set out in the Strategic Plan
- Introduction of additional sources of information (parent, staff and student surveys, results of exit interviews, CPD report etc.) to assess the school's performance from all points of view
- Took part in external reviews of both the school's and the Governing Body's performance and implemented, where appropriate, the recommendations.

Oversight of Financial Performance:

- Stringent and regular monitoring of income and spend against budget throughout the year
- Strategic long term budget setting achieved by dedicated Budget Review Team working with the Finance Director and the Headteacher to balance the school's resources with our desired outcomes for students
- Focus on benchmarking and the need for regular risk assessment
- Work with the Finance Director and Headteacher to approve capital spend on improved facilities at the school. New student support facilities block completed in July 2017 and plans for a new school pavilion and canteen facilities have been approved.

Sue Bishop
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