

## Annual Statement of the Norwood School Board of Governors for the academic year 2015-2016

As a board of governors we must provide clarity of vision, ethos and set the strategic direction of the school. We hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils. We must also oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure that its money is well spent.

### Governance arrangements

In line with Government requirements the Board was reconstituted in September 2015. It now consists of 5 elected parent governors, 1 local authority governor, 2 staff governors (one of whom is the Head Teacher), and 9 co-opted governors. At the end of the 15-16 academic year we agreed to undergo a further reconstitution to reduce the total number of governors from 17 to 15, this will be done by reducing the number of parent and co-opted governors by 1 each.

Following the resignation of Errol Forbes and the second reconstitution, the governing board will have 3 vacancies: 2 parent governor positions, which have been advertised, and a co-opted governor vacancy.

### Attendance record of governors

Governors have good attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
H Hope (Chair)	6	6
R Curran-Crawley	5	6
E Forbes (resigned 4 July 16)	5	6
L Thompson	5	6
D Webster (Head teacher)	6	6
D Marchant	4	6
K Hodge	2	6
M Lodhi	3	6
S Graham	6	6
D Illife	6	6
M Kemp	5	6
R Chowdury (elected 4 July 16)	1	1
M Smith (elected 4 July 16)	1	1

### The work we have done on our committees and in the governing board meetings

Our work this year has focused on three areas. Firstly we have supported the school development plan to ensure that teaching and learning is at least good for all pupils and that pupils make above average progress in all subjects. We have done this by:

- Supporting the Head teacher and senior team with the delivery of a series of external faculty reviews and the implementation of their findings.

- Examining internal and external performance and progress data.
- Supporting staff to improve pupil behaviour and attendance.

The second focus has been on development of a new school strategy for the next five years. This strategy should not only improve achievement for all pupils but provide them with new opportunities and ultimately see this school become an important part of the local community. This strategy will form the basis of the school development plan and annual whole school priorities.

Finally, we have examined our governance structures. Following a rigorous self-assessment and external audit we have changed the way the governing board works. This includes reducing the total number of governors by 2, reassessing our committee structures and implementing governor self-review procedures. These changes will be implemented from the 2016-17 academic year.

In addition we have undertaken our statutory duties with regards to financial management, safeguarding, performance management of the Head teacher, health and safety, ensuring school policies remain up to date and monitoring the effectiveness of pupil premium funding.

Despite a difficult economic climate and funding changes we are pleased to report that the school finances remain in good standing, through the careful management of the budget and we continue to have a carry forward each year.

Good Governors should not be an invisible presence. We have continued to build strong relationships with heads of faculties and staff through individual link governor meetings. This helps us better understand the work being done in school and the challenges faced by staff. We have also undertaken learning walks and attended performances and exhibitions which show case the hard work of our staff and what our pupils can achieve when they are pushed and challenged to do better. Governors are also involved in supporting the schools work to ensure excellent pupil behaviour and where issues do arise governors are involved in both attendance and behaviour intervention panels with parents, pupils and staff.

Governors have also undertaken a variety of training including Local Authority networks, panels and hearings, SEN, safeguarding, performance management, finance, new OFSTED framework, and chairs training.

## **Future plans**

Our aims for the forthcoming year:-

1. To ensure that progress is above average for all groups of students in all subjects, with a particular focus on our disadvantaged students and higher attainers.
2. To review the School's position in light of the Government's focus on academisation, considering all available options while ensuring that the outcome reflects the best interests of our pupils.
3. To communicate more widely the work of the Governing Board within our community, and to increase our engagement with our stakeholders with a particular focus on pupils and parents.
4. To implement our governance review and to analysis our roles as Governors and the impact we have on pupil's performance.

## **How to contact your board of governors**

We welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from staff, pupils, parents/carers so please get in touch. To contact us please address correspondence to Norwood School Governing Board c/o Stephen Heather , the School Business Manager ([heather.s@thenorwoodschool.org](mailto:heather.s@thenorwoodschool.org)).