



**Context:**

The governors of Charlestown Primary School form a Local Advisory Board (LAB) which, in turn, is part of the Atlantic Centre of Excellence (ACE) Multi-Academy Trust. We work in partnership with the Head Teacher to improve the school and are accountable to the Board of ACE Directors.

**Effective governance is based on six key features:**

1. Strategic leadership that sets and champions vision, ethos and strategy.
2. Accountability, that drives up educational standards and financial performance.
3. People with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity.
4. Structures that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
5. Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements.
6. Evaluation to monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance.

**Contextual Information:**

In January 2019 we were inspected by Ofsted, where we secured a GOOD judgement.

In addition, this year we were able to record some outstanding progress and achievements across the school, which we as a LAB triangulate with our Challenge Partner reports and with our own LAB monitoring. The children's enjoyment, engagement and attitude to learning is coming through in our Data reports - all of which progress to our commitment of creating an Outstanding school for our community.

This year we feel it is appropriate to acknowledge the contribution of Tasha Davis, who joined the LAB in 2013 and stood down as Chair in February after being in post since 2017. Tasha oversaw a near total change in LAB personnel and a new Headteacher.

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This statement aims to summarise the work of Charlestown's LAB over the last 12 months. Although by no means exhaustive, it does illustrate how the Governing Body is contributing to their three core strategic functions as outlined in the 'Governors Handbook':

**Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction:**

As governors, we fully support the schools aims to promote the highest standards of work and behaviour and to provide opportunities for success for all children in a caring environment of mutual trust, respect and harmony. We are also committed to removing and breaking any barriers to learning that we may encounter.

The strategic direction is core to our School Impact and Improvement Plan (SIIP) - and this is agreed with governors and leadership teams. This is then monitored and scrutinised by Ofsted and our Challenge Partner initiatives. Reports of progress and internal monitoring enable our LAB to challenge effectively and support where required.

Our LAB held a skills audit after our Ofsted judgement in January and identified areas which we could strengthen further, which led us to making a new appointment this term. In turn, we have also participated in staff recruitment interviews. Our governors regularly attend courses and conferences to update key skills and information - with further training courses already booked for the forthcoming new year.

Governors are able to monitor termly and use findings to challenge and support the head teachers report and our strategic direction. Governors were challenged by Ofsted on inspection and were able to demonstrate their "good knowledge and understanding of the schools needs". Ofsted also reinforced the LAB "provide strong levels of challenge to leaders".

Governors adopt key areas of responsibility in addition to the overarching responsibilities common to all - Pupil Premium (Disadvantaged), Sports Premium, Safeguarding, SEN and Compliance.

**Accountability of head teacher for the performance of school and pupils:**

Governors monitor both formative and summative assessment data and relate findings to our school priorities.

Governors hold the head teacher and senior leadership team to account by challenging and supporting improvement and progress, via the Head Teachers report.

Governors monitor the School Improvement and Impact Plan (SIIP) to ensure its delivery and link monitoring visits to key Ofsted issues.

Governors regularly attend meetings and assemblies to experience celebratory occasions and concerts in the community and offer support to FOCS, Friends of Charlestown School.



**Overseeing financial performance of the Academy and making sure it is money well spent:**

Governors receive budget monitoring reports to ensure initiatives are cost effective.

Although the financial responsibility for the school sites centrally with the Trust's Business Team, the LAB have contact with the Trust's finance lead should discussion be required, via our link governor.

The LAB scrutinise both Pupil Premium (disadvantaged) and Sports Premium funding - and hold the Head Teacher to account on spend and it's impact of.

Governors work with the Head Teacher to source funding and grants - in 2018 we were successful in working with a local housing developer.

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**Other evidence of LAB impact on school improvement:**

Governors acknowledge and appreciate the contribution and support from ACE, particularly with training, and it's support during our recent Ofsted inspection in January 2019.

To drive forward our ongoing commitment of creating an Outstanding school in the community, the LAB hold regular informal meetings to discuss matters not covered in our formal meetings, with the aim to offer robust monitoring visits and discussions. The LAB also ensure governors are visible and approachable to raise prominence of the LAB. Governors are committed to attending assemblies, PTA events, staff meetings and parent forums.

Governors ensure effectiveness of the LAB by inviting key members of staff to LAB meetings, when appropriate, to present their subjects (ie. Maths, RWI and Sports leads) and show the impact made across school.