

WHA Annual Governance Statement For Academic Year September 2017 to August 2018

This annual governance statement gives a brief overview of impact of the governing body over the last year. It is intentionally a brief summary, as activities are reported as they happen throughout the year via the school newsletter, school website and publication of the minutes from Governors meetings in the governor section of the school website. The governor section also contains details of the governors during this period, their attendance at meetings and their pecuniary interests, if any.

Attendance at Governors meetings during this period was 87%. The Governors bid farewell to Ali Parsons and she was thanked for 8 years of selfless service to the school. Emma Gilbert has taken over as Chair. Governors continue to seek new members and if you feel you have something to offer, please contact the clerk on governance@andaras.org

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

The governors have supported the Head of School to ensure that the vision and ethos of the school is maintained, and the improvement plan takes the school in the right direction. The Chair met with the Head of School regularly to ensure everything was running smoothly and that the staff are supported. Governors always keep the school vision and ethos in mind, and ensure they are content with the 'feel of the school' when they visit. The school's top 3 risks have been analysed and mitigation put in place.

Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation of its pupils, and the performance management of staff

Through the school performance data, the governors were able to see how the children are performing and where there are issues that need to be addressed. The governors have challenged results and drilled into the reasons for them. They have analysed attainment data with particular focus on writing and the consistency of teaching, and have continuously challenged the HoS about what is being done to address weaknesses in the data. The improvement plan has been monitored and the impact of certain activities has been questioned. The PPG provision and attainment has been monitored, and regular visits conducted, as have safeguarding checks. Policies have continued to be reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

Pressure on school budgets continues to be greater than ever and is not confined to WHA, or the MAT. The governors have had to lend support to a staff review and restructuring. The MAT Directors set the budgets but the governors still monitor the spending and apply pressure when additional funds are required for key work such as infrastructure repair. The governors have been involved in the design and layout of new school building, ensuring regard for health and safety during the building work.

Priorities for 2018-19

- To embrace the new governing structure implementing a working group meeting once a term, with individual visits to make sure all areas are captured. Making sure these are well-attended, with all governors contributing.
- To ensure that all Governors have a good understanding of data, reports and policies, to allow for confidence to question and challenge and know the areas they need to be concentrating to ensure the academy succeeds in its offering.
- Each Governor to know their role and responsibilities within the Governing Body, and to be well equipped to carry these out, offering training where required.
- To actively recruit, welcome and induct any new Governor to the team.
- With the Horsahut construction starting making sure the Health and Safety procedures are in place for the safety of all pupils, staff and visitors to the school.
- Look at the viable options to find safer walk ways into school mitigating where possible walking on Windmill Hill where there is no pavement.
- To ensure the Academy Improvement Plan is delivered effectively.
- To ensure each Governor has completed up-to-date safeguarding training.

Although we have named out areas we want to concentrate on during the next academic year, this list is not exhaustive and Governors will be there to monitor and support all areas as and when require.