

THE GOVERNING BODY'S PERFORMANCE AND OBJECTIVES 2015-16

The governing body's objectives in 2014-15

Our objectives were as follows:

- To complete 95% of statutory tasks, 90% of recommended tasks and 90% of other tasks on time.
- To achieve a full programme of governors' visits, including classroom visits, visits to staff meetings and school council
- To produce an effective plan for the training and support of governors.
- To publish the first annual governance statement.

Statutory tasks

Of the 32 statutory tasks, all (100%) were completed on time. This was even better than last year's figure of 93%.

Recommended tasks

19 items were on the list. 14 recommended tasks were completed on time (74%). This was below the target of 90% and below last year's figure of 88%.

Our biggest omission was in relation to Pay & Performance, where the committee had failed to meet. This has been rectified and Pay & Performance matters are now being dealt with promptly and properly.

The appointment of the clerk did not take place on time as we were still searching for a replacement for Pat Nicholas. This, too, has now been achieved.

The safeguarding audit was completed by the deadline, but the audit and subsequent review of policy were not completed until they meeting after they were due.

The other late item was 'Curriculum Policy', but this has now been replaced by the curriculum map on the website.

Three items were added to the list during the year

Other tasks

The governing body should have completed a further 84 tasks. Two tasks were the responsibility of external bodies (building condition survey and internal audit), one could only be done after the new clerk was appointed and two items were new, leaving 80 others. 71 of these were completed on time (89%), compared with 89% last year.

The items not completed on time were:

- Governor's curriculum report on EYFS – because a new governor had taken over this responsibility
- The review of the governors' visits policy, which was subject to a review by a sub-committee. That task was completed within a reasonable time
- The review of the volunteers' policy, which dragged on for longer than it should have

- The review of service level agreements.
- The review of the student placement policy
- The acquisition of financial benchmarking data
- The review of the school's insurances
- The review of the stocks and stores inventory

The last two items were also late last year.

Items that were late last year, but completed on time this year were:

- health & safety premises inspections
- the review of the IT vision and strategy.

We also struggled to complete the SEF and draft SIP on time.

Governors' visits

The frequency of governors' visits seemed to improve last year, although I remain unconvinced that we are monitoring these visits as thoroughly as we should. Nine reports of visits have been posted on the secure area of the website, although I suspect that there were more than nine visits.

However, the headteacher's new school improvement partner (Marie Hunter) observed the number of visits governors recorded and wondered whether too many visits were being made. This is a subject to which we may return later.

Training and support of governors

Last year, we noted that the training and support of governors had not been properly addressed and resolved to improve this.

Thanks must be given to Kevin Hewitt (vice-chair), who really got a grip of this issue. He conducted a skills audit and prepared a training plan. We agreed in future to update these biennially.

Annual governance statement

Governors are now required to produce an annual governance statement, which we have done. In the light of this, we also agreed to hold an annual open meeting for parents, the first of which is due to take place in January 2017.

Objectives for 2015-16

It is recommended that governors adopt the following objectives for 2016-17:

- To continue to complete 95% of statutory tasks, 90% of recommended tasks and 90% of other tasks on time.
- To review the programme of governors' visits, including classroom visits, visits to staff meetings and school council and to ensure adequate monitoring arrangements are in place to record both visits and reports
- To arrange the affairs of the governing body so that the chair and headteacher can make a full contribution to the development of the emerging multi-academy trust

Colin Bridges
Chair
October 2016