



Annual Governance Statement for The Governing Body of Stanley Park Juniors School: Autumn 2019

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Stanley Park Juniors school Governing Body are to:

1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
3. Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure its money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements.

Our Governing Body consists of the following:

- 5 Parent Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 1 Staff Governor
- 1 Headteacher
- 2 Partnership Governors
- 4 Co-opted Governors.

The Full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have a number of committees, each meeting termly, which consider different aspects of the school in detail.

SPJS Committees

We currently have the following committees:

1. Curriculum and Standards

This committee ensures the curriculum is being taught in line with DfE guidelines and the Ofsted Inspection Framework and monitors data relating to pupil performance and progress. They also review the School Development Plan and Self-Evaluation from. Individual governors have links to specific subjects, meeting regularly with subject leaders for 'governor learning walks' and to review subject development plans. All policies relating to curriculum and standards are reviewed by this committee.

2. Personnel

This committee is responsible for all staffing issues relating to teaching and non-teaching staff, including staffing structures and all employment policies. Areas for discussion include new appointments, annual leave and absence, and the financial implications of personnel issues. All information shared at this committee is anonymized in accordance with guidelines.

3. Finance

This committee meets to scrutinise our school accounts, approve expenditure and ensure our budget is managed effectively, and that funds intended for specific purposes (eg. Pupil Premium and Sports Grant) are being used to improve pupil outcomes. The School Business Manager provides a three year budget to allow forward planning.

4. Premises

The premise committee conducts a termly walk around school premises to ensure our buildings and premises are fit for purpose, and all aspects of health and safety are adhered to. Any building



projects or improvements, such as the new reception area, are discussed and agreed in this committee.

In addition to our four core committees, governors either individually or in working groups, also take responsibility for overseeing the following essential aspects of the school:

1. Safeguarding

SPJS is committed to providing all pupils, staff and visitors with a safe and inclusive environment, and we believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. A dedicated Safeguarding Governor ensures all safeguarding policies and procedures are adhered to, through Headteacher meetings, safeguarding training, central record checks and regular learning walks, many of which are unannounced.

2. SEN

To ensure all pupils with special educational needs receive the very best support we can offer, we have a dedicated SEN governor who works closely with the school's SENco, and provides rigorous scrutiny of our SEN offer.

Attendance Record of Governors

Our Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and our attendance record can be viewed on the school website at www.spjs.org/governors

Our Impact

2018-19 was a busy year for SPJS governors. Here are some of the things we have achieved:

- Reviewed and updated our visions and values statement in consultation with all stakeholders, engaging our pupils, parents and carers in this process.
- Raised attendance figures: persistent absentees has decreased this year, with overall attendance at 96.97% with the percentage of pupils with less than 90% attendance down to 12 children (a decrease of 6).
- Ensured the school is fully GDPR compliant
- Reviewed numerous school policies and procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose, in accordance with DfE guidance.
- Completed a governor competency/skills audit to ensure that, collectively, our governing body has the skills and experience required to fulfil its strategic function.
- Overseen the completion of major building works, completed on time and on budget, providing SPJS with a new boys' toilet block, a new entrance which makes SPJS completely secure, and a new reception area.
- Ensured that the statutory pay policy and appraisal cycled is adhered to, and introduced a new Support Staff Pay Policy which is fair to non-teaching staff.
- Gained a clear understanding of the new curriculum, quality of teaching and progress and attainment from regular meetings and analysis of school data.



- Consistently questioned and challenged the school staff and leadership team, as evidenced in our committee meeting minutes, to ensure they are being held to account for their decision, and to improve outcomes for our pupils.

We still need to consider:

- Regular training, specific to governors' individual roles and responsibilities.
- The efficiency of our committee structure.
- Governing body membership and the possibility of reconstituting the board to allow succession planning.
- Political developments that affect the education system, particularly with regard to academisation.

We still need to improve on:

- Recruiting new governors to ensure a diverse range of people with a large skills set.
- Link governor reports and where they fit in the governance reporting year. What are we learning from them?

Governing Body Meeting Minutes

These are available to read upon request from our Headteacher, Mrs A Lamy.

How you can contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions and feedback from parents. Please contact the Co-Chairs of Governors, Mrs J Smith and Mrs E Clements at governors@spjs.org