

Orchardside Governors' Annual Statement and Impact Report 2020/2021

The Governing Body at our school fulfils the role defined by Government supported by the Local Authority. In doing so we support our school to do the very best it can be for the benefit of the children and families in its care. We continue to strive for excellence and support all staff in doing so.

Along with the rest of the world, the year was unpredictable, and the task was to meet the needs of the vulnerable pupils in the school as well as maintaining the safety and well-being of the staff. COVID-19 presented the school with many challenges that they responded to very well and the Governors thank staff for their dedication, resilience and flexibility.

Many things did happen, and many others were affected. Perhaps the biggest delay was to our pending OFSTED visit, hopefully this will be resolved early in the next academic year.

Much of the detailed work of the Governing Body is done through the sub committees. The full Governing Body maintain a full oversight of the work of the school and deserve our thanks. This year they here have been fewer Governors visits, but we have agreed that these visits will return to normal this year.

The Governing Body continued to meet virtually in 20-21. Membership changes occurred and we are delighted to add two new members that have been drawn from local councillors and from major communities in the borough. We welcome them both. The Vice Chair resigned after many years of service to enjoy his retirement and an experienced ex Director of Education agreed to become the Governing Body Vice Chair, we also have a new Chair of Teaching and Learning group,

Now that our new Governors have joined and the composition of the body is stable and with Covid behind us (hopefully), we can continue to move forward at pace to regain the rapid progress and momentum gained prior to COVID.

Some notable areas for report include the various grants that the school has received. These are funding streams for the Mayors Office Violence Reduction Unit to support after school provision and further funding from the DfE to work alongside partners to create a specialist Taskforce to support our young people and families. The impact of these initiatives will be reported in the year to come.

The Turnaround Project has evolved over the year to meet changing circumstances but remains a very valuable and effective means of support for secondary schools and the pupils that are referred, the impact of Turnaround was reported to the summer Governing Body meeting. The school also relaxed its admission policy in May 2021 to support local schools during COVID to provide short term placement for those 'At Risk' of permanent exclusion, this too has proved fruitful for local schools.

The summer term full governing body meeting received a report and presentation from the Local Authority School Improvement Advisor which is a valuable aid for the school that we appreciate.

The curriculum is continuously evaluated and modified to ensure the best match to the pupils received at the school. Further changes this year have achieved that as well as making a reduction to the staffing costs, which in these times is always a priority.

Re-integrations back to mainstream remain a priority and as well as ensuring those who remain on site get the best possible results and transition to further education or works. On both indicators the school is demonstrating its effectiveness.

The Governing Body will continue to fulfil its responsibilities, we are a 'critical friend' to the Headteacher and leadership team, we provide support and challenge in equal measures. The Governors have gained an enormous amount of respect for all the staff in the school. The efforts of the staff, care for our children and everyone going the 'extra mile' that we see on a regular basis is inspirational. To name but a few; reintegration's, quality of teaching and learning improvements, improving trends in data, regular food hampers, after school provision and the Year 11 outcomes have been tremendous.

We thank all the staff for all their hard work, and we look forward to working with senior staff looking at next years School development Plan and School Self Evaluation.

Mr Derek Goddard
Chair of Governors