

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of King James's School

July 2018

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of King James's School Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Headteacher and Governing Body work in close partnership. The Head is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school, implementing the strategic framework established with the Governing Body.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of King James's School is currently made up of:

- Parent Governors – Sarah Tabor (Vice Chair), vacancy
- Local Authority Governor – Heather Hartmann
- Staff Governors – Rob Snow, Carl Sugden
- Co-opted Governors – Andrew Knight (Chair), Pat Dunnill, Rebecca Evans, John Heap, Andrew Howard, Mark McKenzie, Sophie Ramplin, Mike Smith, Rob Whitehead, vacancy (five Co-opted Governors are also parents of children at the school)
- Associate Member – Dennis James

Debbie Howard, Clerk to the Governors, is also in attendance at meetings.

In order to discharge its duties effectively, the Governing Body has a range of skills. These include experience and expertise in financial management, teaching and learning, school leadership, health and safety, safeguarding, performance management, premises, human resources and strategic planning.

The Governing Body operates using a circular model of governance, which means that all business is now considered at full Governing Body meetings. These take place at least five times per year. Particular tasks, issues and concerns are delegated to:

- Standing working groups – the Governing Body currently has one standing working group, the Executive Finance Group.
- Time-limited working groups – set up to research a particular issue and report back to the Governing Body.
- Panels – for staff discipline, staff discipline appeals, pupil discipline, school complaints and Headteacher performance management.

Attendance record of Governors

The Clerk to the Governors keeps a record of Governors' attendance at meetings. These are published annually on the school website. Meetings need to be quorate (that is half the members need to be in attendance) to ensure that decisions can be made.

Statutory duties

In 2017/18, we have undertaken our statutory duties with regard to:

- financial management
- safeguarding
- performance management of the Headteacher
- health and safety
- reviewing and updating statutory policies
- monitoring the effectiveness of pupil premium and catch-up funding.

Governors have undertaken a variety of training, including new Governor induction, safer recruitment, safeguarding and the National Governance Association's regional conference.

Development plan priorities

The Governing Body's work revolves around the school development plan.

The school development planning cycle begins in June and the plan is reviewed against the school self-evaluation document (SEF) and against the impact statement from the previous planning cycle. The plan is also reviewed in August, when the outcomes from the GCSE and A level examinations are known.

The 2018/19 plan has a theme of 'Clarity, Communication and Consistency'. Given the strengths of the school set against a background of ever more financial pressure, it is a plan based on simplicity and a focus on core outcomes.

There are four priority areas:

Priority 1:

Behaviour and Attendance – re-affirming expectations, improving parental engagement, developing resilience and wellbeing, developing personal qualities.

Priority 2:

Curriculum – supporting curriculum developments at KS4 and KS5 (new specifications), re-shaping KS3 (breadth and purpose), refining KS3 assessment, developing our alternative provision.

Priority 3:

Staff Development and Support – CPD, collaborative planning, middle leadership development, collective culture and ethos.

Priority 4:

Partnership and Collaboration – sixth-form building, Boroughbridge collaboration, sixth-form partnership, 3G pitch.