



WELLING SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY – Chair of Governors – Annual Governance Statement for 2015-16

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Welling School Governing Body are:

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

Governance arrangements

Our Governing Body comprises 14 governors, including the Headteacher; four staff governors; two parent governors; and seven appointed governors. A full list of the governors can be found on the school web site.

Being part of an academy trust – TKAT – The Kemnal Academies Trust – means that we are ultimately accountable to the TKAT Board of Directors for the standards achieved in our school. TKAT, in turn, is accountable to the DfE, (Department for Education.)

The Governing Body manages its business through full governing body and committee meetings. Our committees are structured to reflect the Ofsted Framework, namely *Achievement and Teaching*, *Behaviour and Safety* and *Finance and Facilities*. Through these termly meetings, we ensure that we cover the most important aspects of the school's work, for which we, as part of the school leadership team, are accountable. Much of our work at meetings involves receiving full and detailed reports from the senior leadership of the school, which tell us about progress with school improvement. Through these reports and by our challenging questioning we have been able to monitor closely the progress all our students are making, the quality of the teaching they receive, their standards of behaviour, their attendance and their well-being. Our *Finance and Facilities* Committee continues to monitor the school budget closely, seeking to ensure that funds are spent to best effect for our students' education. The job of this Committee is likely to become even more crucial over the next few years, as we anticipate increased pressure on school budgets. We also have committees that meet to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters, when required.

Attendance record of governors

All our meetings have been quorate.

We attend training and briefing sessions provide by Bexley Council and TKAT.

The work we have done on our committees and in the governing body

We have received and approved some TKAT policies, including those for *Absence Management*, *Pay*, and *Capability*.

We have approved updated school policies for *Admissions*; *Behaviour*; *Homework*; *Assessment and Feedback*; *Safeguarding and Child Protection*; *Extremism and Radicalisation*; *Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance*; *Educational Trips and Visits*; *CCTV*

Members of the Senior Leadership Team and other staff members regular attend our meetings to give us very helpful updates so that we are 'up to speed' with developments in the school. Presentation topics have included: *Work Experience*, *Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship*, *Teaching and Learning*, *Changes to Assessment and the exams system*, *Teacher Appraisal*, *Literacy*, *Special Educational Needs*; *Welling Ways*.

Governors are very aware, in particular, of their duty to ensure that the school has secure and robust systems for ensuring our student's safety, through its safeguarding policy and practices. Issues such as radicalisation, extremism, internet abuse and FGM have featured in our discussions.

Partnership 6th remains a valuable and strong partnership, ensuring that we can, as far as possible, secure appropriate courses for our 6th Form students.

We have supplemented our formal, strategic meetings, with regular visits to see the school at work. In this way, we have been able to:

- ✿ see our policies being implemented;
- ✿ evaluate progress with school improvement;
- ✿ meet with teachers and students;
- ✿ understand and appreciate the day to day life of the school.

Future plans for the governors

We will continue to keep our effectiveness as a governing body under review. We are working as effectively as we can to support and challenge the school in its continued journey towards becoming Outstanding.

How you can contact the governing body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Lesley Robins, via the school office.

Lesley Robins
Chair of Governors