

Annual Governance statement for the governing board of Fred Nicholson School - July 2025

In accordance with the Government's requirements for all governing boards, the 3 core strategic functions of the Federation governing board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the school to account for the educational performance of the schools and their pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements

For the academic year 2024/25 the board has experienced several changes due to resignations and governors reaching the end of their term of office. While there are still vacancies that can be filled the board in July consisted of the Headteacher, one Deputy Headteacher as an associate member, one staff governor, two parent governors, one trust governor, one LA governor and one co-opted governor.

While thanking all departing Governors for their hard work a special mention should be made of Hilary Bradshaw who gave the school many years of dedicated commitment and service.

In attendance at the meetings for part or whole of the meeting are the Business Manager and the LA lead officer.

The governing body has met six times during the year. We do not have committees but meet as a whole governing board as this reduces duplication and ensures all governors are fully involved and informed. Whilst face to face meetings are preferred, meetings are hybrid to allow all governors maximum access.

Between meetings the co-chair of governors has regular meetings with the Headteacher and keeps in close contact.

Governance Attendance

See Appendix 1

Items discussed at meetings 2024/25

Safeguarding and finance are standing agenda items.

Policies have been reviewed as necessary.

Premises and Health and Safety are regularly discussed.

For each school term one meeting has a written report from the Headteacher and SLT. Topics covered include pupil numbers, attendance, behaviour, staffing and progress data. For the other meeting in the term the report is given verbally.

During the year the school had a shortened OFSTED inspection that confirmed the school's belief that teaching and learning standards had slipped but also recognised that the school had measures in place to tackle this. Governors have had regular updates on the action plan. This includes information about the amended curricula paths and a report from a visiting headteacher on the new teaching of phonics that is being used throughout the school.

Governors have also been kept informed and have had lively discussions about the move to Swaffham next year. Governors recognise that these preparations have a direct impact on the Headteacher's workload and thank the Deputy Headteacher and SLT for stepping up to help minimise this impact.

Outside of meetings governors have been involved in monitoring visits and recruitment panels and the co-chair attends the transition board meetings for the move to Swaffham whenever possible.

Future Plans

The next 12 months will be very important in the history of the school and we all look forward to the delights of a new building and facilities. The aim will be to make the move as seamless as possible for the pupils. Finance will continue to be monitored as the impact of the move becomes more apparent. Staffing will also be a priority as it is likely some staff members will not transfer to Swaffham. The amended curricula will also be monitored to see the effect it has on progress and outcomes.

We always welcome input from parents – please contact the chair of governors via the school office.

APPENDIX 1

See Gov Attendance 2024-25 FNS.docx