

Bellbird Governance Report (Sep 25 – Aug 26)

The aim of this report is to highlight areas the Governing Body (GB) focused on throughout the year.

At the beginning of the year, the FGB focused on sustainability and introducing the pupils to sustainability concepts including: water management, heat management and recycling.

The result was a highly motivated pupil body, keen to explore recycling possibilities and how to reduce both their own, and the School's, carbon footprints.

Throughout the year, the GB monitored the delivery of the curriculum by completing regular governor visits with specific questions to the Head about the School Development Plan (SDP). The GB oversaw the introduction of improvements to the curriculum including the procurement of teaching schemes ie Kapow Curriculum, Herts Essential Writing and White Rose Maths. The GB also oversaw the development of Adaptive Teaching Practices.

A cornerstone of the GB's role is both challenge and support; the governors provided challenge, as recorded in the minutes, by requesting information, challenging statements around key topics eg behaviour, finance, attendance and ensuring the School strives to meet the targets set by the GB.

The assurance element of the GB's role was carried out during school visits, 10 formal governor visits this year to review areas of the curriculum, and discussions with staff around subject delivery and the quality of teaching and learning.

Visits by governors shows support for the School and individual members of staff and is essential in maintaining standards.

The GB considered the increasing number of SEND pupils in the School, the poor administration of EHCP by the LA and the falling levels of financial support for SEND pupils and monitored the impact of this on the delivery of the curriculum. The GB asked for, and received, data on the inclusion of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds in sports and extra-curricular activities.

The GB focused, consistently, on behaviour especially bullying, racism and persistent low-level disruption and supported the School in addressing these issues.

The GB monitored persistent absence and ensured this was addressed by the School; the GB also reviewed pupil recruitment and numbers on a regular basis.

In order to ensure the skills profile of the GB match the skills needed to support and challenge the School, the GB completed a skills audit; it was found that the GB has a good balance of skills with which to fulfil its roles.

At every meeting, the GB discussed the financial position of the School, highlighted financial concerns and ensured these were addressed by the School.

The Safeguarding Governor reviewed the Single Central Register, regularly, and highlighted any concerns to the School; the GB considered wider safeguarding issues at every meeting of the GB; the monitoring of the

SCR provided assurance against objective external criteria whilst the high profile on safeguarding ensured a positive culture of safeguarding cascaded throughout the School.

The School was regularly challenged and supported in its preparation for an OFSTED inspection under the New Inspection Framework and governors undertook training to raise their awareness of their role in any future inspection.

The GB monitored progress in mending the leaks in the roof and supported the School in its actions during the recent excessive heat incidents. The GB actively promoted the urgent need for new boilers and supported the School during their installation and received regular reports on routine maintenance and H&S issues, conducting regular H&S inspections.

This has been a very busy period for the GB which has been well supported by dedicated and experienced governors from a diverse range of backgrounds; the value of having a professional and proactive GB is difficult to overestimate as it sets the tone and style for the School, provides challenge and support and acts as a 'critical friend' to the Head & SLT.

Dr Tim Wreghitt

Chair of Bellbird GB