



Crabtree Farm Primary School

Governing Body Impact Statement School year 2023-24

This report provides a brief summary of the work of the school's Governing Body in 2023-24 and its impact on the school and its pupils.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body is made up of parent governors, a local authority governor, staff governors, and co-opted governors. It meets six times a year. A separate finance committee meets before the full governing body meetings and a pay committee meets annually. A professional clerk from the local authority's Governor Services attends and minutes all full governing body and finance committee meetings.

Each year the governors complete the NGA governor audit. An analysis of the audit responses this year indicated that the governors share a wide range of relevant knowledge and experience to support their work on the board.

Governors' meetings

During the pandemic, the governors conducted all their meetings by video. This year they chose to conduct some of their meetings face-to-face and some by video. This supports a good level of attendance at all meetings.

At the full governing body meetings, governors have received regular reports from the headteacher, the school business manager and the finance committee. Governors have discussed pupils' achievement and progress, safeguarding, progress on the School Development Plan and policy updates. They have asked the headteacher for regular reports on pupil and staff wellbeing. Governors play a key role in the drive for school improvement by holding the school to account, at the same time acting as a critical friend and providing support to the school.

In addition, the chair and vice-chairs of governors have held regular video meetings with the head and deputy headteachers which have proved very helpful, ensuring the governors have a clear picture of the successes and challenges in school.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has met four times. It has worked closely with the school's senior leadership to prepare the three-year plan, the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) and the school's budget and has presented them to the full governing body.

The school faces significant financial challenges. The chair of the finance committee and the chair of governors have each had additional meetings and discussions with the head teacher and school business manager as the school works to set a sustainable budget.

Pay committee

The pay committee has met to review the performance management of all staff carried out by the senior leadership team and its pay recommendations to ensure that the system is rigorous, fair and

non-discriminatory, and that targets are closely related to school improvement priorities and that pay recommendations are dependent on meeting targets and outcomes for children.

Headteacher appraisal

Two governors appointed by the governing body carried out the headteacher performance management review, holding the headteacher to account for the progress made in achieving her personal targets and the attainment of the school's key priorities. Maintained schools are required to appoint an external adviser for guidance, support and consultation on establishing headteacher appraisal objectives. Our School Improvement Adviser normally takes on this role.

Monitoring the School Development Plan

Link governors have been appointed for the following subjects to monitor the School Development Plan (SDP).

- Arts
- Early Years Foundation Stage
- English
- Equalities
- Health and safety
- Humanities
- Maths
- Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish)
- Reading
- Personal, Social and Health and Sex and Relationship Education
- Pupil Premium
- Safeguarding – this is required by the DfE.
- Science
- SEND
- Sports Premium
- Wellbeing

In order to help governors monitor progress on the school development plan effectively, the governors have regular presentations from the assessment co-ordinator. The format of these presentations reflects discussions with the governors about how best to summarise key outcomes.

SEND

In summer 2024 approximately 18% of pupils on roll were identified as having SEND. The link governor for SEND has worked closely with the SENCo to ensure that the provision for these pupils is appropriate. In the summer term the governor met to consider the school's bespoke provision for those pupils with the most significant needs.

Pupil Premium

The number of pupils eligible for pupil premium remains high at 60-70%.

Governors had already approved the school's proposals for the Pupil Premium programme for 2023-24. This will be reviewed again for the coming year. The Pupil Premium link governor has worked closely with the school on developing the strategy.

School progress

After the disruption caused by the pandemic and the resulting lockdown, the school has made good progress. This is reflected in the results achieved by pupils this summer. Following the KS1 and 2 SATS earlier in the summer term, it is now possible to see the improvements everyone has been working for.

Governors believe that their contribution to the commendable progress the school has made include:

- The challenge they regularly present to the school
- Their scrutiny of the school's data
- Their support for the school in all areas of the curriculum
- Regular monitoring visits
- Regular scrutiny and approval of school policies.

Training

Governors have regularly attended training sessions organised by Local Authority Governor Services and new governors have attended induction training. Full governing body meetings are preceded by a presentation about 1-2 curriculum areas, delivered by the subject lead. Other curriculum leads submit reports on a scheduled basis. The assessment co-ordinator also makes a termly presentation re progress.

Next steps

Priorities for governors for the coming year include:

- Continuing to support and challenge the school in its work.
- Supporting the school in its work on improving attendance.
- Supporting the school through the current financial challenges.