

GOVERNING BODY ANNUAL REPORT 22/23

21st December 2023

Content Overview

1. Introduction from the Chair
2. Our School Vision
3. Our Governing Body Vision
4. The Role of the Governing Body
5. Governing Body Membership
6. Achievements / Highlights of 22/23
7. Our Top Priorities for 23/24
8. Our Vision for the Next Three Years
9. Working Together
10. Attendance and Attainment
11. Tapestry Communications
12. And Finally...





1. Introduction from the Chair

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first annual report of the Walmley Infant School Governing Body. This report is intended to report our collective efforts to improve academic excellence, foster a positive learning environment, and ensure high levels of accountability and performance for our school.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all members of the school community for their unwavering commitment and collaboration this past year. As we approach the Holiday season we look forward to another year of continued growth, learning, and success.

2. Our School Vision

"Inspiring Lifelong Learning

We pride ourselves on our warm, welcoming environment where children are nurtured to learn, explore, build resilience and experiment so they develop a love of learning - for life."

3. Our Governing Body Vision

"At Walmley Infant School our vision is to foster a harmonious and productive partnership between the School Governing Body, teachers, and staff.

We believe that by working hand in hand, we can create an environment that nurtures educational excellence, promotes professional growth, and maximises the potential of every student.

Together, we strive to build a school community where collaboration and empowerment are at the core of our success."

4. The Role of the Governing Body

The governing body exists to make sure that the school runs effectively. It is a strategic role, and the governing body performance manages the Headteacher who runs the school on a day-to-day basis.

The core functions of the governing body are:



Headteacher: Mrs H Murphy
Walmley Ash Road, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B76 1JB
Website: www.walmleyinfantschool.co.uk Email: enquiry@walmleyinfant.org
Telephone: 0121 351 1355 Fax: 0121 313 0624



2019-2022

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

A parent recently asked me what exactly a Governor does.

To illustrate the types of activities we do to help fulfil this role, here are a few things we have done this past term:

- Undertaken school visits to support our School Improvement Plan, including Phonics check, Health & Safety, mental wellbeing, safeguarding.
- Attended a series of training courses, with topics including: Safeguarding, induction and expectations, new Governor training hosted by Birmingham City Council, and Ofsted preparation for Walmley Infant School by Birmingham Education Partnership.
- Met as a Full Governing Body to review the past year + term, and plan for the upcoming year.
- Updated the new website with our Governor information.
- Creation of induction pack for governors, parents and carers.
- Welcomed three new Parent Governors and supported their onboarding into the role.
- Met with parents / carers at school events, including Curriculum evenings, Parents Evening, and Open classrooms, to gather feedback about the school.

All these activities help us create our essential strategic overview to ensure we are effectively leading and supporting our school.

Tip #1: The new school website?

Yes! Our school website was fully upgraded and updated just before half term October 2023. Please check it out to find out more about our school including governance, curriculum, policies, and safeguarding.

5. Governing Body Membership

As a whole Governing Body, our responsibilities are to ensure the effective performance of our school. We have two sub-committees:

■ Resources Committee

- Responsible for the budget and financial management of the school and for maintaining the fabric of the building. Also, this focuses on the school's assets and grounds. Includes staffing - make-up, skills, issues, policies.

■ Standards & Curriculum Committee

- Ensures that current best practice in terms of the National Curriculum coverage and high-teaching is in place; review and evaluate standards across the school as well as review our Curriculum Offer to ensure pupils have the best provision possible. Includes pupil wellbeing.

You can find full details of our structure on our website <https://walmleyinfantschool.co.uk/about-us/our-governors/>.

I am delighted to announce that at our Full Governing Body meeting on 19th December 2023 we ratified the appointment of **Parminder Chohan** as Partnership Governor. We welcome Parminder and look forward to benefitting from her skills and experience.

Full Who's Who as follows:



Victoria Davis
Chair of Governors











Paul Williams
*Vice Chair of Governors,
Chair of Resources sub-
committee, Health &
Safety Governor*



Rachel Holmes
*Chair of Standards and
Curriculum sub-
committee, Policy
Governor*



Helen Murphy
Head Teacher

			
<p>Jeeu Teck Sze Safeguarding / Child Protection / Filtering & Monitoring Governor</p>	<p>Steve Colden Immediate Past Chair, Training/Skills Governor</p>	<p>Suzanna Heath Policy Governor - Finance, Immediate Past Chair of Resources Sub-Committee</p>	<p>Rebecca Perry Staff Governor</p>
			
<p>Sara McCoy SEND Governor</p>	<p>Joanne Lewis Safer Recruitment Governor</p>	<p>Bobbie Thompson Parent Governor</p>	<p>Parminder Chohan Partnership Governor</p>

6. Achievements / Highlights of 22/23

We believe it's important that we hold ourselves to account too, and all existing Governors from 22/23 were asked to complete a self-effectiveness survey. We are happy to share the top answers for this key question:

Looking back on the past academic year 22/23, what specific initiative or action do you believe had the most positive impact on the improvement and development of our school under your governance?

■ General Governance

- Introduction of targeted school visits linked to specific School Improvement Plan targets, including new visit report template, enabling us to ensure our activities are linked to strategic goals and improvements.

■ Standards & Curriculum

- Implementation of school-wide phonics scheme and monitoring of progress with tangible results. We are really proud of the significant improvement in the attainment results of our children - well done!

■ Resources

- Support and challenge of our biggest vendor spend with the cleaning contract competition and contract negotiation - mitigating risk and ensuring service delivery for our school.

Tip #2: What is the School Improvement Plan?

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) is a working document used to set priorities and monitor progress throughout the year. Each target has a linked Governor to support the attainment of each initiative.

7. Our Top Priorities for 23/24

The governing body is responsible for setting the school's vision and the strategy to achieve that vision. Our top priorities for the academic year 23/24 for each area of focus are:

■ General Governance

To provide strong governance as a lever for school improvement:

- To recruit to capacity, develop governor skills, and optimise governor effectiveness.
- To support school improvement per the SIP.
- To develop parent and child engagement, and support safeguarding.

■ Standards & Curriculum

To support and increase expectations of child attainment, including attendance:

- To ensure the embedding of phonics 'Unlocking Letters and Sounds', and Maths Mastery across all year groups.
- To improve development of middle leaders, in order for them to have greater impact on teaching and learning across the school.
- To support the school focus on attendance and persistent lateness.

■ Resources

To ensure effective financial management of the school:

- To ensure financial stability and full oversight of finances, including transition of Chairs, understanding of Pupil Premium (including link to attainment), and staffing costs.

8. Our Vision for the Next Three Years

■ General Governance

To provide strong governance as a lever for school improvement:

- To increase governor experience, confidence, and effectiveness - thereby ensuring the ability to maintain strategic challenge and oversight, able to set and deliver the SIP.
- To increase collaboration with our parent/carer community, and local schools, ensuring a diverse range of views are represented. To develop parent and child engagement, and support safeguarding.

■ Standards & Curriculum

To support the curriculum and increase expectations of child attainment, including attendance:

- To support the curriculum including English / Phonics and Maths Mastery, and improving attainment as a result
- To support the school focus on attendance and persistent lateness.
- To support safeguarding, its infrastructure, and changing concerns including online safety.

■ Resources

To ensure effective financial management of the school:

- To maintain financial stability and full oversight of finances, including forecasted budgets, additional streams of revenue, and impact of future building works

9. Working Together

Close collaboration with our parent/carer community is so important to us. Your feedback through the annual school survey is reviewed and areas of improvement identified. This is managed through our School Improvement Plan, (for key strategic



areas), and ad hoc initiatives, (for example requests regarding Tapestry or after school activities).

We will regularly approach parents/carers when given the opportunity to hear your views, so please don't be scared to talk to us! **You are always welcome to share your feedback with us** via information@walmleyinfant.org, or you can directly contact a member of our leadership team. Please keep in mind that for any personal concerns or complaints, we kindly request that you initially address them with your child's teacher. If necessary, these concerns can then be escalated to the Assistant Head Teachers and ultimately to the Head Teacher.

Your open communication is highly valued, and we're here for you.

Tip #3: How can you support our school at home?

- *Ensure your child's attendance: arrive daily on time, ready to learn for the whole school day;*
- *Support your child's reading at home, including books sent home in your child's book bag weekly;*
- *Complete home learning and utilise our resources including Numbots and Purple Mash;*
- *Monitor Tapestry for updates, and like/comment on posts and memos so we know you've seen the key information, (you can sign up to email notifications if this helps!)*

10. Attendance and Attainment

Attendance at school is a key topic for us - a topic which measures attendance and also persistent lateness. In addition to the direct link to the achievement of our children, there are a number of other factors as to why attendance is so important:








Headteacher: Mrs H Murphy
Walmley Ash Road, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B76 1JB
Website: www.walmleyinfantschool.co.uk Email: enquiry@walmleyinfant.org
Telephone: 0121 351 1355 Fax: 0121 313 0624



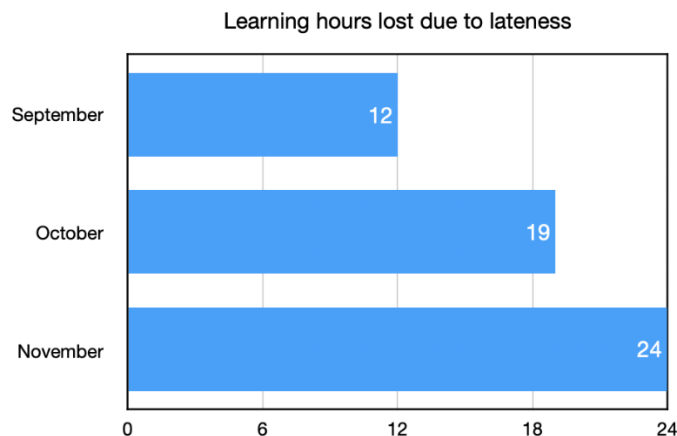
2019-2022

Why attendance matters

Improving attainment	Reducing disadvantage	Preventing risky behaviours	Lifeline for the most vulnerable	Recovering from Covid
				
Good school attendance is closely associated with attainment. Pupils with the lowest overall absence rates at KS2 were 1.4x more likely to achieve the expected level, and 3.3x more likely to exceed it, as well as 2.8x more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs including English and Maths.	The significant variation in the rate of absence between local areas and between disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and their more advantaged peers risks perpetuating inter-generational inequalities. As well as their own life chances, that's a problem for local authorities and nation as a whole.	Regular absence is associated with a number of risky behaviours. This includes gang membership (gang members are 2x as likely to be formally recorded as truant), crime (90% of young offenders had been persistently absent) and serious violence (83% of knife possession offenders had been persistently absent in at least 1 of the 5 years of study).	Absence data is one of the best indicators of need allowing schools and local areas to intervene early. This paves the way for improved safety and outcomes for the most vulnerable and can also help to resolve issues before they progress and require expensive crisis services – CSC intervention, alternative provision and NEET support.	Reengaging all pupils – but especially the most disadvantaged – and maximising face to face attendance is a prerequisite to any efforts to minimise the longer term impact of the pandemic on pupils longer term.
This is why all children have a legal entitlement to a full-time education and it is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure this happens				

Source: Department for Education

This term alone we have seen a sharp rise in the number of hours of lost learning:





We kindly ask all our parents and carers to take responsibility for ensuring our children come into school on time every day. The gate opens from 8.40 until 8.50am - after 8.50, the child is late and needs signing in at the office. Children who arrive late disturb learning for all the children who are at school on time.

11. Tapestry Communications

Tapestry is a key tool with which the school communicates with you - and you communicate with the school too! Tapestry was implemented as a direct result of your feedback to have more information regarding school life and updates of your child's progress. Staff will regularly post:

- **Memos** with key information, including school activities, after-school clubs, home learning, and special recognition assemblies;
- **Observations** of your child's activities and attainment, including performance against key metrics.

Please can we ask parents/carers to interact with these posts, via the Like button or posting comments, so we know you have seen the content!

You can log-in to Tapestry here: <https://tapestryjournal.com/> and you can sign up for email notifications whenever there is a new post. You can do this by logging in, clicking on your name on the top right -> Edit Preferences, and from there you can check your email address and "Change Notification Preferences."

12. And Finally...

As we bid farewell to this year and eagerly anticipate the opportunities that the next one will bring, I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering support of our school and our children. May this holiday season be a time of joy, reflection, recharge, and connection with loved ones.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All.

Victoria Davis

Chair of Governing Body, Walmley Infant School

Tip #4: Any feedback on this annual report?

Please share your feedback to vdavis@walmleyinfant.org. I'd love to hear from you!