

Pocklington Infants CofE School

Governor's Impact Statement 2022-23

At Pocklington Infants our Governors work together to carry out their core functions:

- ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding 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
- ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard

Governors must also ensure that the governing body complies with all legal and statutory requirements. Governors seek the advice of the clerk to the governing board and other professional advice as appropriate.

The Full Governing Body met six times throughout the academic year, with the Resources Committee meeting a further six times.

Governing Body Membership

This year a number of new Governors were appointed:

Helen Savory	Chair of Governors (Co-opted)
Sarah Ingle	Vice-Chair of Governors (Co-opted)
Alice McNeil	Co-opted Governor
Amy King	Staff Governor
Kerry Loyns	Parent Governor
Annie Harrison	Foundation Governor

They joined our existing governors Vicky Peart (Local Authority Governor), Jake Belder (Foundation Governor), Adam Copley (Co-opted Governor). We sadly said goodbye to Laura Bolton and Alice McNeil following their resignation and we would like to thank them for their contributions as governors. We are still looking to recruit governors (parent, co-opted and foundation) and would be happy to share more about what the role entails if anyone would like to join the team.

We would also like to offer our thanks to the PTA whose work and support throughout the year has been invaluable.

School Context

In the academic year 2022-23 Pocklington Infants became a three class entry school and reception will continue to have three classes in September 2023. The governing body has supported the school with premises challenges following the increased intake and approved spending to allow IT resources to be further improved.

The governing body reviewed the school data profile and have evaluated performance and attendance data in Full Governing Body meetings.

Staffing

Governors have assisted with recruitment and interviewing candidates, leading to the appointment of two leadership TLRs and we look forward to welcoming three new teaching colleagues to the team in September. An information booklet was produced to promote the school to prospective applicants and we received a high number of applications where a number of candidates spoke very highly of the atmosphere at the school, highlighting our vision of 'happy children, loving learning'.

Governor Training

The Chair of Governors introduced a Governor Handbook as part of the induction process and we have trialled using a template to share learning from training across the governing body (which will continue into 2023-24). Governors completed the NGA skills audit and this was used to identify key training needs. The majority of statutory training is up to date and the following further training was well attended:

- Finance Training from the Local Authority April 2023
- Curriculum Monitoring and Visits Training from Chair of Governors May 2023
- Local Authority Governor Training June 2023

The governing body has agreed a comprehensive governor training programme including additional training for governor links using the NGA Learning Link platform. The focus areas for governor links have been reviewed ahead of 2023-24 and we also hope to have better engagement with training in the next year offered by the York Diocese to prepare for the SIAMs visit window in 24-25.

Ofsted Visit

The school was visited by Ofsted in January 2023 and three of our governors spoke with the Ofsted team. We would like to thank everyone at Pocklington Infants for their contributions during the inspection, the two day visit was an intensive process and students and staff represented the school community in a way that they should be very proud of. A 'Requires Improvement' grading was given, however, the report contained a significant number of positive comments that we were happy to be able to share with families.

The governing body has supported a rigorous process of action planning and setting of improvement objectives alongside the School Improvement Advisor from the local authority and we believe significant progress has already been made towards these objectives under Dr Bartram's leadership and with the support of all colleagues in the Pocklington Infants community.

Governor Visits

The governing body agreed an update to the documentation for recording visits in order to better support colleagues in terms of the Ofsted framework. At least one governor visit has been completed in the majority of subject areas by link governors. The governing body has reviewed the link governor structure and set out a visits programme for 2023-24 which we hope will allow the governing body to be more visible and offer appropriate support.

Resources Committee

The resources committee has been instrumental in approving key policies, particularly those relating to finance. The present challenging financial climate means that the governing body has had to advise the Headteacher on where efficiencies can be made, but also considering cost benefit analysis to ensure that the education of the young people the school provides for is not adversely affected. A deficit budget was approved by the governing body and accepted by the local authority, but with careful financial planning we are looking to be out of deficit in the following academic year. We would like to extend our thanks to Dr Bartram as Headteacher and Mrs Husband as the Business Manager for their diligence and astute financial management under extremely difficult circumstances in terms of school budgets.

Vulnerable Students

Governors completed a SEND Governance Review and our pupil premium and safeguarding governor links have both completed school visits this academic year. Further governor training is planned for 2023-24 and the review of link roles means that access to the curriculum for vulnerable students will become more of a focus for the governing body in 2023-24.

Parental Engagement

A parent/carer handbook was developed by the governing body in collaboration with the Headteacher and a 'Parent Communication Survey' was carried out in April 2023. The results of this survey and those from parents/carers who responded to the Ofsted ParentView Survey in January were used to allow the governing body to support a decision to move from the 'Jotter' app and website to the new 'Weduc' system, which aligns the infant school with the junior school in terms of platforms for parent/carer communication. The Weduc app was launched at the start of July 2023 and the website is currently under construction ready to launch in September 2023. An audit of the existing website was carried out by the Chair of Governors and this has informed the format of the new website. No formal complaints were received in this academic year.

The following parent and governor events were held this year and we hope to build on this next year:

- Parent Q+A following Ofsted Visit March 2023
- SEND Parent View July 2023

Conclusion

With the introduction of a number of new members of the governing body this year has meant a necessary focus on exploring the school context, particularly following the Ofsted visit in January 2023. We are indebted to Dr Bartram and Mrs Husband (as well as those more experienced governors) for their support as we developed our understanding. In the next year we hope to be more visible in terms of working with the school community and to continue to develop our monitoring processes, alongside a comprehensive training programme for governors. Thank you to all our families for their support, we look forward to working with the school in 2023-24.

Helen Savory

Chair of Governors