

Rise Park Primary and Nursery School

Governing Body Impact Statement 2020-2021



Introduction

Rise Park Primary and Nursery School is a local authority-maintained school. The governing body is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers willing to use their skills and experience to support and challenge the Headteacher in her challenging role and ensure the school is well managed. They make a positive contribution to the school and the wider society.

The Department for Education requires governors to place strong focus on three core strategic functions:

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

This impact statement summarises their role in the development of our school and its pupils over the past year.

General role of the Governing Body

Headteacher Appraisal

The Governing Body carries out the Head Teacher Appraisal annually. Selected Governors have undertaken Head Teacher's Appraisal Training, and the appraisal is carried out with expert assistance from an independent educational advisor. The appraisal process allows us to look closely at the performance of the Head Teacher, have discussions about areas of strengths and where necessary, areas for development. New targets are then set against criteria which the Head Teacher's performance will be evaluated. Again, this meeting took place virtually this year.

Monitoring Visits

As Governors we celebrate the excellent work around the school but aim to provide challenge and support in areas that can improve. We monitor progress in all areas. Monitoring visits have been impacted by covid-19. The partial closure of school and social distancing measures meant that governors have been unable to conduct on site monitoring in Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021 and instead monitored via Zoom. Monitoring this year (in person and online) has included: safeguarding, attendance, SCR, pupil premium, SEND, EYFS, curriculum, online learning during Covid19, health and safety and school records. Weekly phone calls took place between the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors during the partial school closure.

Nottingham Schools Trust – following the decision to join the trust, the school has saved money and time on policy research, writing and training. The headteacher and several staff members have provided training for the NST.

Finance –The Finance Committee monitors and plans carefully with the headteacher for any large expenditures and also reviews the budget in detail each term. They track income and expenditure throughout the year and hold the Headteacher to account.

Covid-19

The school had a COVID 19 inspection by Public Health during the autumn term 2020. There was an audit of procedures and risk assessments and entering/exiting the school was also observed. The school was registered as COVID compliant.

Link Governors

Link Governors have responsibility for specific areas of interest within the school. Pre Covid they are usually invited on a learning walk round school where they can see for themselves the progress made by the children in their workbooks and on the walls of their classrooms, in which they are finally able to take part during the summer term 2021. Each governor has an identified member of staff with whom to liaise about his/her area of interest. They also undertake monitoring visits, including separate meetings with key staff. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, visits were put on hold in Spring term but took place whenever possible during the summer term, but often still virtually. The Chair has met with the Headteacher both virtually and late in the year, in person, on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues, including staffing, Safeguarding and Health and Safety.

Progress and Attainment – data for all children across the school, including vulnerable groups, has been analysed. Data focuses on reading, writing and maths. Analysis is completed at varying levels. The impact of this is that governors are aware of how children in year groups, pupil premium, high ability or boys/girls are performing and where there are issues. It also ensures that the Governing Body knows throughout the year how the school is progressing towards the school priorities and targets and we do this by asking challenging questions. They are kept informed about the use of the catch-up programme for the children.

Priorities for 2021-2022

- Governor training for OFSTED
- Continue to visit our school for meetings, monitoring visits and other social/school events, and ensure that all these are well-attended, with all governors contributing.
- To ensure that Governors have a good understanding of data, reports and policies, to allow for confidence to question and challenge as well as to celebrate improvements and success.
- Each Governor to know their role and responsibilities within the Governing Body, and to be well-equipped to carry these out.
- To recruit, welcome, and induct any new Governor to the team. To make every effort to ensure that the makeup of the Governing Body reflects the diverse nature of the school.
- To work collaboratively within the Nottingham Schools Trust. To be open and inviting of our new ways of working and to be up-to-date, as well as be involved in the continued formation of the Trust and how we go forward together as a group of schools.
- To be involved in and prepared for dealing with any issues as they arise such as Recruitment, Health & Safety, and Ofsted Inspection; as relevant to the roles of the Governing Body.
- To ensure each Governor has completed up-to-date safeguard training.

Governor Training

Members of the Governing Body continue to have training via the LA governor services. The impact of this is that the Governing Body are kept abreast of their responsibilities regarding the

latest requirements and expectations. Learning and actions from training is shared at Full Governing Body meetings.

Training this year includes:

Governor Name	Training Course	Date Attended
Jeanette Kirkby	Prevent training	08.11.2021
	Child Protection in Education	28.07.2021
	Pupil Premium – governor role	21.04.2021
	Monitoring & Evaluation	27.01.2021
	Chairing and sharing	06.05.2021
	Engaging with stakeholders	31.03.2021
	Effective governor-part2-Strategic leadership	10.03.2021
	Preparing for OFSTED	03.02.2021
	Understanding the role of the SEND Governor	23.09.2021
	Ofsted training for Governors	20.09.2021
Safeguarding children	20.09.2021	
Christopher Martin	Safeguarding for Governors	02.03.2020
	Health & Safety	18.03.2021
	Chairing and Sharing	06.05.2021
	Finance for Schools	02.06.2020
	Virtual monitoring	28.04.2020
	Ofsted training for Governors	20.09.2021
Ben Ford	Safeguarding children	20.09.2021
	Health and Safety	18.03.2021
	Pupil Premium- governor role	26.11.2020
	RSHE planning for September 2021	16.11.2020
	Monitoring and Evaluation	03.11.2020
	Induction the Effective Governor – Part 1	09.03.2021
	induction the Effective Governor – part 2	10.03.2021
	Induction the Effective Governor – Part 3	11.03.2021
	Safeguarding Children – what Governors need to know	01.03.2021
Ofsted training for Governors	20.09.2021	
Christopher Pallender	Safeguarding children	20.09.2021
	Ofsted training for Governors	20.09.2021
Sally McDonnell	Safeguarding children	20.09.2021
	Ofsted training for Governors	20.09.2021
Jo Hale	Safeguarding children	20.09.2021
	Ofsted training for Governors	20.09.2021
Keith Brothwell	On a Sabbatical	

All our Governors have undertaken Safeguarding children on 20.09.2021 and have read the Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2021.

Committees

Each term all governors are invited to attend on sub-committee (eg. Finance and General Purposes) and one Full Governing Body.

In addition, Governors may also attend monitoring visits at the school; the purpose of this is determined by areas of focus on the School Improvement Priority plan. For example, meeting with staff members, reviewing behaviour, observing teaching and learning, talking with pupils or progress in books. The impact of this is that governors understand and gain knowledge in areas of

strengths and weakness in teaching and practices within the school. This has been limited this academic year due to Covid-19.

In the autumn term the pay committee reviewed staff appraisal outcomes and agreed staff incremental pay rises for 20/21. The pay committee consists of the Chair of Governors, two other governors and the Head teacher.

Health and Safety

The health and safety governor makes termly visits to the school in person and reports any problems to the site manager and the Headteacher. These are discussed at the full governing body meeting.

Recruitment

Two governors and the head teacher are involved in the recruitment process. This is either via Zoom or in person. There has been an appointment for a class teacher, teaching assistant and site manager during the last year.