



Sandfield Primary School

Chair of governor's report 2021-2022

Context

There is no doubt that the effects of the pandemic continued to be felt throughout the year. Whether in terms of the impacts in the breaks in schooling on pupils, continued bouts of infection and therefore staff absence and on the wider well-being of our school community, this global event has continued to challenge school leaders.

Having said that, Sandfield's leaders have worked hard to diminish these effects for our pupils. Of particular note is the success the school has had in sporting events. Physical health is key to learning and to developing a well-rounded, resilient human being. All children now participate in sports squads and have sessions with professional sports coaches during the school day. The impact of this has been some very impressive results in inter-school matches and competitions locally, culminating in the school's most successful District Sports meet ever.

OFSTED

The school was inspected on 5th and 6th July 2022. The school continues to be good and the verbal feedback received by school leaders and governors noted the significant improvements that the school has made since its last inspection. During the verbal feedback given by the inspector, she said, 'pupils are proud of their school and the school has helped them to be proud of themselves'. Leaders have taken the areas for development identified by the inspector and included them in the school's development plan for the year ahead. The whole staff body, the leadership team and, of course, the pupils, all contributed to making the inspection a successful one and the governors extend their thanks to everyone in the school community for their support.

1. Vision, Ethos and Values

Sandfield's three-year vision is to become an outstanding school where pupils are happy, confident, achieve success and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Work continues to ensure that all pupils are able to achieve their potential, regardless of any barriers to learning that they may face. The difference in outcomes between pupils who attract pupil premium funding and their whole cohorts has reduced from last year. It remains a school priority that we work to close the gap and that our disadvantaged pupils make at least expected progress over the year.

Teachers have worked hard this year to embed and develop the Sandfield two-year rolling curriculum, which is now in its third year. Teachers have also dealt with the introduction of a new phonics programme and have been embedding a new feedback and marking policy. Governors visited the school to see this in action in the spring term.

Holding the school to account

It has been extremely gratifying to be able to return to in-person school visits for governors this year. In addition to our twice-termly meetings, governors have met with staff and pupils to monitor safeguarding, finance, behaviour, feedback and marking, the use of pupil premium funding, health and safety, and SEND.

2. Financial Accountability

Governors continue to work closely with the headteacher and school business manager to ensure that the school's resources are being as well used as possible. The SLT has a clear strategy for the use of pupil premium, sports premium and catch-up funding that is targeted at closing the achievement gap between our more advantaged and less advantaged pupils.

Support from the trust's central finance team has been valuable, with termly monitoring meetings to ensure governors have a clear picture of the financial position of the school.

Policies Reviewed

October 2021

Noted new trust-published policies:

- Travel, expenses and Governor Allowances
- Early Career Teacher
- Attendance (Pupils)
- Recruitment & Retention
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Trust Behaviour Policy statement
- Trust Staff Code of Conduct.

Approved SPS Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

December 2021

- Charging and Remissions Policy (Statutory)
- Health & Safety Policy (Statutory)
- Governor Visits Policy (Non-Statutory)
- Assessment Policy (Trust Mandated)
- First Aid Policy (Statutory)
- SEND Policy (Statutory)
- Early Years Foundation Stage policy (Statutory)
- Trips and Educational Visits Policy (School Optional)

January 2022

- Sandfield Admissions policy 2023-2024

March 2022

- Behaviour policy
- Marking and feedback policy
- Extreme weather policy
- Online safety policy
- Staff Well-being policy
- Using Images of Children policy
- Young Carers policy

Noted new or updated trust-published policies:

- Managing Allegations of Abuse and Concerns against staff
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Recruitment and Retention

July 2022

- Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school policy.
- English as an Additional Language policy
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- Social Media policy
- Supporting Children with Medical and Physical Conditions and Administration of Medicines Policy