



Sandfield Primary School

Chair of governor's report 2022-2023

Context

However much we would like to forget the pandemic, its effects are still being felt by our pupils. Attendance is down across the country and this remains a challenge for some families at our school. The teaching and learning that goes on in our school is excellent, but if children aren't able to be in the classroom, they will not learn and develop. Our Inclusion Team are to be congratulated on their hard work and the innovative ways in which they have increased attendance, but this remains a priority for the year ahead.

Much work has been done over the last year to review and embed our curriculum. In response to Ofsted's feedback, work has been carried out on History, Geography, Science and Art & DT to ensure that teachers can see the progression of skills and knowledge in each subject, with a particular focus on how the Early Years curriculum feeds into Key Stages 1 & 2. Physical health remains a very important focus for the school and the school's lunchtime sport offer has been revamped to ensure that Sandfield continues to build on the sporting successes of last year. All children participate in sports squads and have sessions with professional sports coaches during the school day. The impact of this continues to be seen in some very impressive results in inter-school matches and competitions locally, culminating in the school's most successful District Sports meet ever for the second year in a row.

Vision, Ethos and Values

For the next three years, our vision is to become innovators in the use of technology that will fuel creativity, deepen collaboration and to close the achievement gap between our more disadvantaged pupils and all our pupils. We will develop our skills in the use of technology in the classroom to make learning personal and to ensure that when they move to the next stage of their education, our pupils are fully equipped to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Work on the school's vision to become innovators in the use of technology has continued, with all children now having access to iPads and using these regularly in class. Governors have seen iPads being used to enable differentiation in the classroom, for example where children are working on the same topic in maths, but are doing so at level appropriate to their own skills. The work to become an Apple Distinguished School will continue in 2023-2024.

A key aim on the school's development plan for 2022-2023 was to work to close the attainment gap between our less advantaged pupils and their peers. Some good progress has been made here, but this will continue to be a focus for the year ahead.

Holding the school to account

Governors have visited the school many times this year, both to see work going on in the classroom and also for special events like Sandfest and the end of year production, Porridge! Towards the end of the year, governors trialled a new way of visiting the school for a themed monitoring morning, looking at how writing is taught across the school. This proved very successful and is a model we will take forward into 2023-2024.

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. New arrangements for our School Business Manager are working well and enable even closer working with the trust central team.

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 and approved

October 2022

- Personal, Social, Health and Education Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Governors noted the Trust has updated the following policies:

- Complaints policy (Statutory)
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Statement

December 2022

- Admissions 2024-2025
- Assessment Policy
- Charging & Remissions
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Health and Safety
- Induction
- Lettings
- Risk Assessment
- SEND policy
- SEND Information Report
- Equality objectives and Information

March 2023

- Designated Teacher for Lac and Previously LAC
- Intimate Care and Toileting
- Lone Worker policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Transition Policy
- Uniform Policy
- Using Images of Children (Photos, Videos, Websites and Webcams) Policy

Noted new or updated trust-published policies:

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

May 2023

- Governors approved an increase to lettings rates

Governors noted the following Learning Partners Academy Trust policies:

- Asbestos Policy
- Curriculum Policy Statement
- Assessment Policy
- Behaviour Policy Statement
- ECT Careers Policy

July 2023

- Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school policy
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical and Physical Conditions and Administration of Medicines Policy has now been delegated to the Headteacher