

The Lakes School Annual Governing Body Statement 2014-2015

In January 2014 the Department for Education published departmental advice which said:

It is good practice for the board to publish an annual governance statement (as academy trusts are required to do through the Accounts Direction) to explain how it has fulfilled its responsibilities – particularly in relation to its core functions, including:

- the governance arrangements that are in place, including the remit of any committees;
- the attendance record of individual governors at board and committee meetings; and
- an assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the board and any committees with details of any particular challenges that have arisen.

This document sets out the annual report of the Governing Body of The Lakes School

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of The Lakes School Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Governing Body of The Lakes School will carry out its role as critical friend to the school and operate in the best interests of the students with due consideration to the resources available.

Governance arrangements	<p>What is the constitution of the Governing Body? The Governing Body of The Lakes School shall consist of the following members effective from April 24th 2015:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 4 Parent Governors b. 1 Local Authority Governor c. 1 Staff Governor d. 1 headteacher e. 8 Co-opted Governors <p>A total of fifteen governors with a term of office of four years. Please see Appendix 1 for further details of the governing body and terms of office.</p>
OFSTED and Governance	<p>The following statements are taken from the school's most recent inspection in May 2015.</p> <p>The governance of the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governing body has been restructured in order to support and challenge the school more effectively. Governors are aware of the strengths of the headteacher and support him in his drive to improve provision. • They are aware of the decline in results in 2014 and are holding senior and middle leaders to account more closely. • They have a good understanding of information about students' progress and the quality of teaching, and are increasingly confident about using this to decide teachers' salaries and tackle underperformance. • They are aware of the financial position of the school and are working to ensure that the school's spending is well planned. This includes how pupil premium funding is used. • Governors make sure that safeguarding procedures meet requirements. • 'The headteacher, ably supported by a strong governing body, has acted swiftly and decisively in order to improve provision. Standards of achievement and the quality of teaching are improving.' • '...with a newly formed governing body, changes have been made to improve the quality of teaching and the achievement of students.'
School Improvement Plan Targets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the quality of teaching so that it is consistently good in all subjects in order to ensure good progress for all students 2. Increase the impact of leadership and management 3. Improve attendance

Governor Visits	Governors attended the Awards Evening. Also, school productions such as Miss Saigon and Fantasia. They attend Parents Evenings and use this opportunity to complete parent feedback questionnaires and to chat with parents. Governors visited school to meet with subject leaders, to review health and safety and to meet with the Special Educational Needs staff. They are on interview panels and were actively involved in the recent Ofsted process.
Attendance record of governors	Attendance at governors meetings is good. A more detailed breakdown of governor attendance can be found in Appendix 2

The work of the Governing Body	
Staffing, Teaching and Learning Committee	<p>This committee has a wide remit but its main focus is the quality of teaching and learning and pupil progress. Governors sit on interview panels and receive regular staffing updates, including regarding the recent review of non-teaching staff. Some of the members form the headteacher and deputy headteacher's performance management panels.</p> <p>Governors review the data from Assessment Points, the Data Dashboard, RAISEonline and exam results to inform discussion on achievement and pupil progress. Three governors from this committee met with the headteacher for detailed consideration of the performance data and gave feedback to the committee. The committee take an active interest in the progress of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and those for whom Pupil Premium is payable.</p> <p>Safeguarding is reviewed and monitored by this committee. They also discuss important issues such as the impact of school finances on the curriculum.</p>
Finance and Resources Committee	<p>The governing body has three key roles, one of which is to oversee the financial performance of the school and to ensure that its income is well spent. The governing body delegates the financial aspects of its remit to the Finance and Resources Committee. The committees responsibilities include: reviewing the budget for submission to the Local Authority for approval; monitoring progress against the budget at its meetings; and reporting significant variation from the anticipated position to the full governing body.</p> <p>The committee also has responsibility for the efficient use and maintenance of the school premises. Despite very limited funding for maintenance and improvement, the committee reviews a rolling programme of repairs and seeks to make the best use of whatever capital is available. The committee also monitors health and safety at the school with governors visiting to discuss the ongoing needs on a termly basis.</p> <p>The committee is experienced and has expertise in both financial and premises management. The Local Authority has stated that the financial management of the school is good.</p>
Community, Marketing and Development Committee	<p>The main focus of this committee during the last academic year has been looking at how the school can best celebrate the upcoming 50th Anniversary. A small working group was set up and plans are now well under way.</p> <p>We have had presentations and made input to the new School website along with other promotional materials for the school.</p> <p>The chair met with the member of staff working on the Rights Respecting School Programme and the committee then recommended that the governing body reword future policies slightly to comply with the criteria for this programme.</p> <p>Members of the committee have attended a number of School Council meetings, which have been very interesting and informative.</p> <p>Following the reconstitution of the full governing body we discussed moving away from three committees but decided that it was important to maintain three</p>

	<p>committees to: focus on promoting the school; to forge links outside school; and to avoiding additional work for the other two committees. This committee will therefore continue with an emphasis on increasing its membership.</p> <p>We have made links with local media, including radio Cumbria, to share more good news features with the local community. Our aim is that The Lakes School becomes the school of first choice for more Year 7 pupils.</p>
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Policies	<p>The following policies were approved during this academic year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions Policy Attendance Policy Capability Procedure for Teachers Child Protection Policy Educational Visits Policy and Guidance E-safety Policy Parental Use of Social Media Policy Physical Control of Pupils Policy Scheme of Financial Delegation Schools' Financial Value Statement Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy Teachers' Pay Policy Teaching Staff Appraisal Policy
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Governor Training	<p>Governors accessed the following training during the year 2014-2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careers Data dashboard training Framework for Governance Independent Advice and Guidance Ofsted training Safeguarding School Improvement SEND Provision Sixth Form Funding Strategic Governance Rights respecting schools Understanding E-safety <p>Clerk: NCTL National Clerks' Development Programme Clerks' Forums</p>
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Data Analysis	<p>How have the Governing Body engaged in the analysis of data to do with the school during the year?</p> <p>During September 2014, the governing body interrogated the GCSE and A-Level results from August 2014 and set out key areas for the school to improve, specifically focussing on student progress in English. The governing body also invited the Subject Leaders for English and Maths to present at a governing body meeting during the autumn of 2014.</p> <p>Governors have been kept up to date with student progress following each of the five Assessment Points through the Achievement and Safeguarding Data Dashboards.</p> <p>A team of three governors have received training from the headteacher on Raise Online.</p> <p>All governors have received training on Transition Matrices from the headteacher. The governing body have reorganised the pattern of meetings throughout the academic year to enable more timely analysis of student progress data.</p>
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Impact	<p>In relation to the core strategic functions, what impact have the governing body had during the year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The governing body have continued to review and adopt policies which are aligned with the school's ethos and values. 2. The governing body have carried out their duties in respect of the headteacher's appraisal and staff pay committee... to ensure that the headteacher is held to account for the achievement of all students at The Lakes School. 3. The governing body have this year adopted the Schools Financial Values Statement which has guided its decisions on providing best value. The governing body have continued to make strategic decisions which ensure that the school's finances are managed in such a way as to make best provision for all of the students at The Lakes School. 4. The governing body welcome the improvement in student achievement this academic year, both at GCSE & A-Level, and continues to drive the school forward to secure improvements in student achievement for 2016 and beyond. More details can be found on the school website in the 'School Results' section.
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Future Plans for the Governing Body

What are the priorities for the Governing Body?

1. Continue to hold the Headteacher to account to ensure further improvement in the achievement of all students.
2. During these times of austerity, to make decisions that secure financial stability for the school.
3. To invite more Subject Leaders to meetings to present about the work they are doing in their subject areas.

How you can contact the Governing Body?

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Bagnall, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors on our school website. We look forward to hearing from you.

Appendix 1

The Constitution and Terms of Office of our Governing Body

Name	Category	Term of Office Expiry
Mrs E Bagnall	Parent Governor	17/06/18
Mr A Cunningham	Head Teacher	Ex officio
Mr P McDougall	Parent Governor	23/06/19
Mrs K Pow	Parent Governor	22/10/17
Mr P Taylor	Parent Governor	07/10/17
Mr J Seed	Staff Governor	03/10/17
Ms S Wileman	Co-opted Governor	11/05/19
Ms P Peers	Associate Member	10/02/18
Mr E Bradshaw	Co-opted Governor	11/05/19
Mrs M Lewis	Co-opted Governor	11/05/19
Ms S McGraw	Co-opted Governor	11/05/19
Mrs V Rees	Local Authority Governor	15/07/19
Mr A Katz	Co-opted Governor	11/05/19
Mr B Smith	Co-opted Governor	23/03/19

Appendix 2

Governor Attendance 2014-2015 (%)

Name	Staffing, Teaching and Learning	Finance and Resources	Community, Marketing and Development	Full Governors
Mrs E Bagnall	25			88
Mr A Cunningham	100	80	100	100
Mr P McDougall			100	88
Mrs K Pow	100			88
Mr P Taylor		100		75
Mr J Seed		80		88
Ms S Wileman		100		63
Mr E Bradshaw		80		88
Mrs M Lewis	75			88
Ms S McGraw	75	100		100
Mrs V Rees	75		100	88
Mr A Katz		100		88
Mr B Smith				100

Title:
Author:
Date:

Path: