

The Lakes School Annual Governing Body Statement 2015-2016

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.' <p>The following statements were taken from the school's most recent HMI visit in December 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Your revised improvement plans address fully the areas identified as requiring improvement at the last inspection and are well thought through. Plans are the product of staff and governors working together and are indicative of the shared drive for improvement.' • 'Staff and governors show dedication and commitment to getting the school

	<p>to be a good school as quickly as possible.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Governors are well informed about the performance of the school and have high ambition for the school and pupils. They have a full understanding of priorities for improvement, based on their analysis of pupils' progress, information from meetings with heads of department and regular reports on progress. Consequently, they are able to challenge and support leaders effectively. They are aware, for example, that the progress of disadvantaged pupils remains a key priority.'
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	<p>Governors attended the Awards Evening. Also, school productions such as 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 Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs staff. They are on interview panels and were actively involved in the recent HMI visit of December 2015. During this academic year, governors have also taken a lead role in consulting with parents about the school through the first Parent Forum meeting which was well attended by the governing body.</p>
Attendance record of governors	<p>Attendance at governor's meetings is good. A more detailed breakdown of governor attendance can be found in Appendix 2</p>

The work of the Governing Body	
Staffing, Teaching and Learning Committee	<p>This committee continues to have a wide remit although its main focus is on the quality of teaching and learning and pupil progress. Governors continue to sit on staff interview panels and receive regular Staffing updates and Curriculum updates and changes. This year it has arranged updates by staff for the whole Governing Body in English, Maths and Science. The Homework Policy is currently under review and further work is planned during the Autumn term.</p> <p>Some committee members form the head teacher's and deputy head teachers' performance management panels. They are also involved in Parental Complaints and Pupil Disciplinary Committees.</p> <p>The committee also reviews and make recommendations for adoption of a large number of school policies and procedures including Child protection and preventing Extremism and Radicalisation.</p> <p>Governors review the school data from Assessment Points, the Data Dashboard, Raise on line and exam results to inform discussion on achievement and pupil progress. The Committee takes an active interest in the progress of all pupils including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.</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 has this year planned a number of areas of work and facelift to the school buildings which were completed during the summer 2016. This committee has also worked closely with the Headteacher to manage changes in staffing which has included a successful teaching staff review.</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>
<p>Community, Marketing and Development Committee</p>	<p>The Start of the school year was focused on the organisation of the 50th Anniversary week of celebrations which were successful and well attended. A plaque was presented to school from the Governors to mark the milestone. After the anniversary celebrations we looked at the overall appearance of the school and what could be achieved given the financial constraints of the budget. We have had presentations on the plans the school have for moving forward with the looks of the school so potential new students are not put off joining the school. Thanks to a local company Let's Talk Shop Ltd who provided us with an overview of what needed to be done. Links were made with an interior design company who also offered free input and help in how to school could be improved. The committee's main focus will still be on promoting the school; to forge links outside school; and to avoid additional work for the other two committees. This committee will therefore continue with an emphasis on increasing its membership. We have made links with locals our aim is still that The Lakes School becomes the school of first choice for more Year 7 pupils.</p>
<p>Policies</p>	<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 Complaints Policy Scheme of Financial Delegation Schools' Financial Value Statement Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy Teachers' Pay Policy Teaching Staff Appraisal Policy Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures Voluntary Redundancy Policy Collective Disputes Procedure Whistleblowing Procedure and Guidance Fairtrade Policy
<p>Governor Training</p>	<p>Governors accessed the following training during the year 2015-2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New examination gradings at GCSE British Values Extremism Data dashboard training Framework for Governance Closing the Gap Ofsted training Safeguarding School Improvement SEND Provision Sixth Form Funding Strategic Governance Curriculum and Assessment developments in Maths and Science Social Media

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 2015, the governing body interrogated the GCSE and A-Level results from August 2015 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 Maths and Science to present at a governing body meeting during the year.</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>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 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. 2. 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. 3. The governing body have continued to review and adopt policies which are aligned with the school's ethos and values. 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 2017 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 make strategic decisions which establish The Lakes School as the first choice secondary school for local families.
2. Continue to hold the Headteacher to account to ensure further improvement in the achievement of all students.
3. During these times of austerity, to make decisions that secure financial stability for the school.
4. 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 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
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
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
Mrs J Butterfield	Parent Governor	Joined summer 2016
Mr M Scaife	Parent Governor	Joined summer 2016

Appendix 2

Governor Attendance 2015-2016 (%)

Name	Staffing, Teaching and Learning	Finance and Resources	Community, Marketing and Development	Full Governors
Mrs E Bagnall	75			66
Mr A Cunningham	100	100	100	80
Mr P McDougall			100	100
Mr P Taylor		100		60
Mr J Seed		100		100
Ms S Wileman		80		80
Mr E Bradshaw		80		88
Mrs M Lewis	100			100
Ms S McGraw	100	100		100
Mrs V Rees	100		67	100
Mr A Katz		80		80
Mr B Smith			100	100

Title:
Author:
Date:

Path: