

## Annual Statement of the Governing Body 2023-24

The Governing Body meets each half term to consider a wide range of issues, supported by the Resources and Finance Committee and the Curriculum and Community Committee. In addition, there are a small number of working groups as needed. Governors are also trustees of the Voluntary Fund.

We have four core strategic functions which are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of the staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent
- Ensuring the voices of the stakeholders are heard

Each year the Governing Body considers:

- The vision and ethos of the school
- Standards of attainment and progress of all year groups and groups of children across the school
- Attendance and punctuality
- Staffing structure and appointments
- Finance
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding
- Regular review of the School Development Plan and the School's Self Evaluation
- Behaviour
- Wellbeing
- Appraisal of all staff
- A range of strategic policies

During the 2023-24 school year, the Governors have in particular focused on:

- Meetings with members of staff and subject co-ordinators and school visits when appropriate
- New staff appointments including Mr McHale, Deputy Headteacher from January 2024, Mrs Pitcher as Headteacher from April 2024 and Miss Fowler as Assistant Headteacher from September 2024
- Reviewing the whole school curriculum and checking that the curriculum meets OFSTED expectations and that it 'Reflects Realities' with reference to inclusivity and decolonialisation
- Monitoring arrangements for national assessment for all pupils
- The use of the government grant for the development of PE and its impact on pupils
- Regular checking of safeguarding and child protection procedures in school including e safety

- The use of the Pupil Premium allowance and its impact on pupils and progress of the GAP project for all vulnerable learners
- Reviewing DBS requirements for volunteers in school
- Reviewing our performance as a Governing Body and identifying areas where we need to improve
- Maintaining a rolling evaluation of the work of the Governing Body and identifying future actions and developments
- Analysing attainment data to help us understand where the school is doing well and identifying areas where improvements may be made with a particular focus across school on the teaching of writing, and writing across the curriculum, and on the development of mathematical understanding
- The work of subject co-ordinators and outcomes in art, PE, geography, history, outdoor learning and music
- Wellbeing of children and staff, post pandemic
- Consideration of curriculum content in all foundation subjects and meeting with curriculum co-ordinators
- Consideration of the provision for children with special needs and disability
- Setting an annual budget within current financial constraints which does not deter from the quality of education offered to the children
- Supporting the school in remodelling the interior non class based spaces
- Supporting the school and monitoring the impact of membership of the local schools' behaviour hub
- Establishing a Risk Register to mitigate against potential risk to reputation and financial security
- Reviewing governor visibility across the school

Our overall aim is to support and challenge the school in order to achieve the highest quality of education for all its pupils. The above represents a sample of what has been achieved in the 2023-24 school year.

### **Training for Governors**

During 2023-24 the governors have undertaken training in the following areas:

- Understanding your role (for new governors)
- Directors' termly briefings
- Chairs' network meetings
- Pupil attendance
- Behaviour and attitudes
- Safeguarding
- E learning: safeguarding training
- SEND for governors
- Dealing with school complaints
- OFSTED preparation
- School financial management

Governors visit school regularly. They are able to meet with staff and children by arrangement. The focus has been on:

- Premises management including buildings work
- Use of facilities
- Safeguarding procedures
- Use of pupil premium grant
- Special educational needs and disability
- Discussion with curriculum co-ordinators and reviewing their action plans
- Exit interviews
- The new STEM building
- Classroom visits
- Celebrations, assemblies and concerts
- Year group visits
- Staff wellbeing meetings

In 2023-24 governors introduced regular termly parent/governor coffee mornings. This is an opportunity for parents to meet governors and learn about the work of the Governing Body and how we support the school.

Together with the Senior Leadership Team, we are grateful to those parents who have supported the Voluntary Fund, GASPA, have acted as class reps and volunteered in school in many ways. The Governing Body is extremely appreciative of the efforts made by all at Grand Avenue to support the children and help each child achieve their best. We have said goodbye to governors and welcomed new members during the year – including Mrs Maitland (staff governor), Connor Adams (co-opted governor) and Farah Ahmad (parent governor.)

Thank you to all governors for their contributions to the board in the 2023-2024 academic year.

Governors can be contacted through the school office at:  
[office@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:office@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk)

Jenny Gresson  
Chair of Governors  
September 2024