



Governing body 2021/2022

Introduction

WELCOME

Thank you for volunteering as a Governor of Meadows School. We are very proud of our Ofsted graded Good Independent school that offers our pupils a broad and rich curriculum delivered through our partnership with Alternative Provisions, such as The Agricultural and Rural Centre (ARC) and ACE Training Centre.

Meadows School introduced a governing body in 2016 and this has now grown to include the company directors, external education specialists, care manager, safeguarding lead and care staff. Most of the current Governors have responsibilities or are members of sub-committee's that are devoted to improving the education for our pupils.

The role of the Governing Body is to make decisions about the school and how it is run. Governors are strategic leaders of the school and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education. The focus is to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, the performance management of staff and overseeing the financial performance of the school..

The Governors meet three times a year and sub committees meet at least termly.

“It is the governing body who set the ethos and standards for Meadows School. It is the members of the governing body who make us who we are.”

Paula Forth, Headteacher.





Chair of Governors

Sue Cryer – Safeguarding.

Governors

Paula Forth (Head of School)

Rebecca Whitehead (Secretary)

Jane Toner

Jonathan Rigg – Finance and Budgeting.

Ian Bywater – Health and Safety.

Karen Brandon

Karen McCarthy

Dr Nicola Shanahan

Ms Carla Bennett

Ms Megan Whitlock

What does a school governor do?

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside the Headteacher and senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children.

Being a school governor is a commitment to attending governing body meetings which consider issues such as setting the school vision, mitigating financial risk and scrutinising educational outcomes. They are also involved in the school community, acting as critical friends to the headteacher and senior leaders.

Governors bring a wide range of skills and expertise from their professional lives to the governing board and schools benefit greatly from working with skilled volunteers, for example anyone with experience of finance, law, premises management or human resources. A governor with business know-how can transform the running of a school.



Core governor responsibilities

Setting the strategic direction: Along with the Head Teacher, it is the job of a governing body to set the school's aims and objectives around how the school will develop and improve. They set policies, formulate plans and agree targets to help the school achieve these objectives, as well as regularly reviewing their strategic framework in light of that progress.

Creating robust accountability: The governing body is there to support and challenge the school's senior leadership team. They play a crucial role in holding the Head Teacher to account for securing the best possible outcomes for pupils. By challenging key decisions and asking pertinent questions about the school's performance data, governors aim to guarantee high standards in education.



How does Meadows School Governing Body work?

A school's governing body does not run the school on a day-to-day basis; this is the job of the Head Teacher and other senior staff. However, the Governing body support the Headteachers role by conducting the following:

Governing body meetings

Full governing body meetings are normally held once a term and whilst there are many important aspects of the role, the most important is the business that takes place at these meetings.

School visits

The Governing body is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of Meadows school and its curriculum. School visits will help governors to understand more about their school and the reality of school life.

Governor visits to the hub, ARC and other alternative provisions, are not a form of inspection but serve as a clear monitoring function on the implementation of the school's strategic planning.

Committee meetings

The governing body is required to have certain statutory committees but may also wish to establish other committees. Some of our governors are members of one or two committees, whose work is reported back to the full governing body. This is so all governors are kept informed of matters and working progress. Our typical committees include ensuring a robust

Quality Assurance monitoring of the Agricultural and Rural Centre CIC and managing any conflicts of Interest. Our sub committees also help manage the Welfare of attendance and managing the referrals and admission appeals for our day pupils.

Reading & Agenda

Prior to meetings, you will receive an agenda, a copy of the minutes from the previous meeting and any other relevant papers that are to be discussed. (Normally the Headteachers report.) It is recommended that you take time to read and familiarise yourself with these documents prior to the meeting. Make notes of anything you are unsure of so you can ask questions at the meeting if necessary.

Specialist Roles

Most Governors will have specialist roles based on their professional specialism. This may include specialising in Safeguarding procedures, Pupil voice, Registered Managers and Parent voice, finance and health and Safety. These Governors may conduct school inspections and produce separate reports of their findings for the Governing body meetings.

Training and support

We are committed to ensuring newly appointed governors are up to speed and effective in their roles as quickly as possible. We provide a number of services to support our governors from the start. This includes conducting an annual competency framework which helps to identify training needs for individual governors and the Governing body as a whole. New Governors receive bespoke training both in-house and online as required.



If you would like any further information

then please contact Sue Cryer

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