

GOVERNING BODY IMPACT STATEMENT 2017-2018

Melland High School

October 2018



**Melland
High School**
Bright Futures EDUCATIONAL TRUST



GOVERNING BODY IMPACT STATEMENT

- This governing body impact statement summarises the work we have carried out this year and gives an indication of our plans and priorities for the future.
- The statement includes:
 - How we work as a governing body
 - What each committee has been doing this year
 - How we work with senior and other school leaders to help monitor and evaluate work on key priorities in school improvement plans
 - Our own, future plans as governors to improve our effectiveness and impact
- Minutes from governing body meetings are available from the school on request.

ROLE OF THE GOVERNING BODY

- To work with the school's senior leaders to make sure that everyone is clear regarding the vision for the school's future, to help steer the school in the right direction and to check that it stays 'on course', true to the agreed vision
- To provide support and challenge for school leaders, holding them to account for how well pupils achieve and how well staff teach
- To help make sure that all the resources available to the school, not least its budget, are well used, so that tax payers get good value from the money that is raised to fund education

THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

- As well as the full governing body holding meetings, two sub-groups, or committees, also meet. These committees are given the time to look at particular issues in more depth. Over time, the committee members develop greater knowledge around these aspects and become more skilled at dealing with them.
- The two committees are:
 - The Curriculum, Quality and Standards (CQS) Committee
 - The Personnel and Finance (PF) Committee

The work of the CQS Committee

- The full remit of the CQS Committee can be viewed on the school website.
- Some of its most important tasks are to:
 - Consider and advise the Governing Body on pupil progress and new initiatives and other matters relating to the school's curriculum
 - Consider and advise the Governing Body on Safeguarding and related matters
 - Support and challenge the school's arrangements for monitoring and reporting on (a) pupils' progress and (b) on the quality of teaching, learning and assessment provided by the school
 - Consider and advise the Governing Body on issues impacting on standards and quality, for instance pupil attendance or staff continuous professional development (CPD)
 - Consider and advise the Governing Body on the school's application of the SEND Code and all SEND-related statutory requirements
 - Play a pivotal part in the review and monitoring of the impact of the School Improvement Plan, with named committee members playing a role in the monitoring and evaluation of specific priorities within the plan

The work of the PF Committee

- The full remit of the PF Committee can be viewed on the school website.
- Some of its most important tasks are to:
 - Receive and make recommendations on the broad budget headings and areas of expenditure to be adopted each year
 - Monitor and review expenditure on a regular basis and ensure compliance with the overall financial plan for the academy
 - Advise the Governing Body on priorities, including Health and Safety, for the maintenance and development of the school's premises
 - Draft and keep under review the staffing structure in consultation with the Principal
 - Consider pay increments as recommended by the Principal
 - Keep under review staff work/life balance, working conditions and well-being, including the monitoring of absence

HOW THE GOVERNING BODY WORKS

- Six full governing body (FGB) meetings are held per year.
- The two committees – for *curriculum, quality and standards* and for *personnel and finance* – meet just before each FGB meeting.
- Governors also show their support through attending school events, including the parent/carer forum on Thursday mornings. They take part in learning walks with staff, when teaching and learning are taking place, so they can see the impact of school improvement work ‘on the ground’. This is part of their overall brief to contribute to monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance of the school’s work.
- Governors also give up their time to plan and prepare for all the governing body meetings, to undertake training, and to act as members of working parties, taking on tasks which arise from meetings or from our annual governance improvement plan.

GOVERNING BODY DEVELOPMENT 2017-2018

We set up a plan to work on some key priorities over the 2017-2018 school year so as to develop and improve our effectiveness as governors. Through this plan we have achieved the following:

- Completed a governor induction package for use with newly appointed governors and appointed a mentor to work with them and help them 'settle in'
- Published a training guidance briefing note for all governors, 'signposting' useful opportunities for training, including how new governors can access an online induction module
- Made a new appointment to the personnel and finance committee, in response to a finding from the last governor skills audit
- Published and distributed the first edition of a newsletter from governors to parents/carers. There has been a continued governor presence at most Thursday morning sessions for parents/carers, as well as at other events for parents
- Ensured that our meeting agendas continue to reflect wide coverage of the school's provision for different pupil groups; our meetings continue to include inputs from a range of staff and students
- Published initial guidance for governors on the fulfilment of the link governor role.
- Agreed a protocol for governors' visits to the school.

OFSTED'S JUDGEMENT ON GOVERNANCE AT MELLAND HIGH SCHOOL

- “Leaders, governors and staff are relentless in their pursuit of excellence in every aspect of the school’s work.”
- “Senior leaders and governors have a deep understanding of the school’s performance.”
- “Governors’ insistence on frequent, in-depth checks on the school’s performance provide invaluable challenge and support to keep everyone on their toes.”
- “Governors make sure that they keep a close eye on the school’s safeguarding practice.”
- “Governors value the opinions of key stakeholders, including staff, pupils and parents.”
- “Governors have a wealth of experience and expertise. However, they do not rest on their laurels and are continually accessing further training to keep on top of their game.”

OUR PLAN TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE GOVERNOR EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT 2018-2019

- Further develop and promote the governor section of the school's website. In the summer term 2019, set up a model for sounding out parent/carer understanding of, and views on, governance.
- Building on general guidance documentation agreed by the governing body, develop further guidelines on the fulfilment of specific link roles for staff governor, careers and enterprise and safeguarding.
- Over the course of the 2018-2019 school year, produce a Melland Local Governing Body vision statement, in consultation with stakeholders and taking account of any vision statement published by Bright Futures Educational Trust.
- When finalising the 2018-2019 governor effectiveness plan, take account of findings from the full staff questionnaire which sought their understanding of, and views on, governance.
- Work with technical support colleagues to develop a web-based model for recording governor training and the use of governors' time in school and off-site, so as to provide a useful analytical, reporting and planning tool.
- In the spring term 2019, re-run the governors' skills audit, in the light of a two-year interval since the last audit and the appointment of new governors in the intervening period.
- In the summer term 2019, undertake an interim review and update of the governance self-evaluation statement.

SUCCESSION PLANNING

- Like any other organisation, the membership of the governing body is not static.
- Over the 2017-2018 school year
 - We have recruited Fiona Johnson (CEO Clict Media) as a governor who will also chair the personnel and finance committee, as well as acting as careers and enterprise link governor
 - We have recruited Colin Shepherd (Deputy Headteacher, St Joseph's RC Primary School) as a governor who will serve on the curriculum, quality and standards committee
 - George Roberts has been elected as staff governor
 - We say a very fond farewell to Sarah Fuller – a long-serving, highly valued governor who has occupied the chair and vice-chair role, as well as currently chairing the personnel and finance committee. She has steered the school through three Ofsted inspections where the school has been judged to be outstanding in its overall effectiveness. She will be very much missed but long remembered for her dynamic, upbeat leadership and sensitive coaching and nurturing of school leaders and staff. Her work has, of course, brought immense benefits to Melland students and their families.