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# Annual Governance Statement

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## September 2023



Kindness



Focus



Creativity



Responsibility



Collaboration

## Federation Aim

'Excellence for All'.

## Governors' Role

The Governing Board is key to the strategic leadership of the New Wave Federation. The Governing Board supports and challenges the Executive Headteacher to continually improve the schools in the federation to provide the best education for every child. This Annual Governance Statement is one way in which the Governing Board communicates its work and the impact we have had on school improvement to our stakeholders. In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Governing Board at New Wave Federation are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Executive Headteacher and Headteachers of each school to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

## The Governing Board Structure

The Governing Board is made up of a group of committed volunteers who bring a range of skills and expertise and come from a variety of backgrounds. Governors are committed to improving the education of every child in our school and invest a huge amount of goodwill, hard work and time.

From September 1st 2023, Thomas Fairchild School has officially become a full partner of the New Wave Federation. This change follows a two year partnership between New Wave and Thomas Fairchild School and a consultation process. Thomas Fairchild School becoming a new member of New Wave Federation, we now have to reconstitute the Governing Board of New Wave and increase its member from eleven to fourteen

- 2 Parent Governors appointed by ballot of the parents at the school
- 1 Local Authority Governor appointed by the Local Authority
- 1 Staff Governor appointed by ballot of the staff
- 1 Executive Headteacher
- 8 Co-opted Governors appointed by the Governing Board based on a skills audit

The Governing Board appoints a professional clerk who is responsible for arranging meetings, taking minutes and following up on all actions. The clerk also advises on procedural matters and plays a key role in the work of the Governing Board.

2 new governors joined the Governing Board during 2022/23 , replacing those whose terms of office had completed or who had moved away. The chair and vice chair are elected by the Governing Board and work closely with the executive headteacher and the clerk.

## **Training**

To effectively fulfill its role, the Governing Board must ensure that all its governors have the required skills and knowledge to support the achievement of the school's priority objectives. All members of the Governing Board have undertaken extensive training and, supported by the training governor, continue to do so. Training has been provided virtually by the Local Authority and members of the school's leadership team. The Governing Board has kept up to date regarding the latest requirements and expectations from the Department for Education.

## **Impact of Full Governing Board Meetings**

The Full Governing Board met 4 times over the 2022/23 academic year to inspect, review and agree school policies and monitor progress against the School Improvement Plan which identifies the key areas on which the school and the Governing Board wish to focus during the academic year. The School Improvement Plan includes measures and milestones that the Governing Board uses to satisfy itself that progress is being made against objectives and that all actions being taken are improving teaching and learning outcomes for all children.

Governing Board to meet virtually with majority of the meeting being quorate and overall attendance and commitment by governors remaining high. As well as continuing to meet its statutory obligations, the Governing Board maintained a particular focus on the wellbeing of the executive headteacher, all staff, and children and on the complexities of rebuilding after the disruption of the pandemic. Between Full Governing Board meetings, members of the Governing Board remained in close contact with the Executive headteacher and headteachers throughout the challenging period – providing support, considering and approving risk assessments, and monitoring the continued provision of learning.

At full Governing Board meetings governors continued to ask questions to ensure the school's standards and expectations are high and scrutinised pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups, with a particular view to ensuring post covid catch up support is well targeted.

The school budget was scrutinised and reviewed in detail at Full Governing Board meetings, as well as by the resource committee who monitor expenditure and income reports from the federations Bursar. Using benchmarking information, governors compare the school's spending with similar schools and ensure resources are being used in the most effective ways to support the best education outcomes for all children. In 2022/23 the Governing Board was particularly keen to ensure the school was making effective use of the Pupil Premium and Catch Up Funding to deliver positive educational outcomes and mitigate some of the impact of the pandemic on pupil progress, particularly on vulnerable pupil

## Performance Management

Governors are responsible for undertaking the Executive headteacher's performance management review each year. A panel of governors, who have undertaken training, supported by an expert external advisor, carry out the Executive headteacher's annual appraisal, which is reviewed at points throughout the year. The appraisal process allows the Governing Board to look closely at the Executive headteacher's performance, and discuss areas of strength and, where necessary, areas for development. New targets are then set against criteria on which the Executive headteacher's performance will be evaluated.

### Monitoring Focus Areas in 2021/22

The Governors formally visit the school up to 3 times during the year to monitor priority areas. Governors usually use monitoring visits as a chance to get to know the school better, to observe and communicate with staff and to hear the pupil's voice. Visits enable governors to ensure that actions agreed in the School Improvement Plan are being taken forward by the school. A monitoring visit report is prepared and presented at the Governing Board meeting following the visit, allowing other governors to ask questions. In 2020/21, governors were unable to visit the school in person for much of the year due to covid restrictions but monitored schools regularly by meeting with staff via zoom. The Governing Board's focus on wellbeing has had a positive impact, with the Executive Head Teacher noting that she felt supported well by governors during this most difficult of academic years.

Specific governor monitoring areas identified for 2022/23 were:

- Early Years and Nursery
- Health & Safety
- Safeguarding
- Finance
- SEND and Pupil Premium (noting the significant rise in children eligible for Pupil Premium during the course of 2022/23)
- Teaching & Learning – with additional focus on writing and 'closing the gap'.
- Wellbeing – there is no separate wellbeing monitoring visits as all governors looked at staff and pupil wellbeing on every visit, recognising the significant impact of the pandemic on wellbeing of all those in the school community. Staff surveys were conducted to measure wellbeing.

### Governor focus areas for [2023/24](#)

The Governing Board, the executive headteacher and senior management team and indeed all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school.

The Governing Board will continue to closely monitor the wellbeing of headteacher, staff, pupils and parent communities and the progress and attainment of all pupils as they catch up after two disrupted academic years.

Governors will continue to monitor closely the measures in place to help pupils' progress to get back on track and the implementation of the School Improvement Plan.

Governors will also focus on increasing and improving two way communications with

parents and carers, pupils and the community and will embrace the renewed possibilities to get to know our school that are brought by governors being able to visit in person.

Governors will review the long-term vision for the school in light of the events of the past two years and assess what is still relevant, appropriate and achievable, always with the best interests of all children in mind.

In conclusion, the schools in the New Wave Federation are exceptional in many ways. Academically strong, it achieves outstanding results. It is an honor to serve these schools and its Governing Board.

Christopher Howard