

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

December 2019

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Thomas's Academy Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher and the 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

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Governing Body currently consists of ten trustee members including two Parent Governors (one awaiting appointment), a Staff Governor and the Headteacher. The Governing Body meets four times each year. In addition to the full Governing Body meetings, the following sub-committees also meet four times each year with their reports presented and discussed at the Governing Body meetings:

- Finance
- Audit
- Building and Services
- Policies, Personnel and Compliance
- Education

Additionally, each member of the Governing Body is linked with a class and is encouraged to make termly visits to the class. Governors also participate in a broad range of activities such as Learning Walks and Head Teacher reviews. Certain Governors have specific responsibility for key aspects of the school such as Safeguarding, SEND and Health and Safety.

A complete list of current Governors, their areas of responsibility and linked classes is available on the school website.

Attendance at Governing Body and sub-committee meetings is excellent and Governors continue to ensure that their training is current and up to date.

KEY ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE GOVERNING BODY IN 2018/2019

The governing body has fulfilled its statutory duties in terms of monitoring all areas of the school's work and offering support and challenge through the agreed terms of reference for each sub-committee and the full Governing Body. Key issues covered included the following:

- Identifying priorities for inclusion in and regular monitoring of the School Development Plan
- Monitoring of pupil progress across the school

- Monitoring the provision provided via the Pupil and Sports premiums
- On-going review of policies and ensuring that the website is compliant with school policies and procedures
- Ensuring support for SEND meets pupil's needs
- Rigorous financial management
- Maintenance of our Good Ofsted rating whilst actively striving for an Outstanding rating reflective of the positive strides the school is making
- Continuous school building improvements including new windows and doors

FUTURE PLANS FOR THE GOVERNORS

The Governing Body's prime aim is to move the school from its current Good rating to Outstanding.

We will continue to work in line with the current government agenda for schools and academies.

Continue our excellent existing partnership with the Thomas's Schools Foundation and to further develop new partnerships with a range of external partners.

MEMBERS

An Annual General Meeting is held in the Autumn Term where Members approve the Annual Report and Accounts and appoint auditors for the ensuing year. The current Members are:

- Charlotte Manson-Bahr
- Tim Stilwell
- Thomas's London Day Schools

The role of the Members is similar to the role of a shareholder of a company limited by shares. The ESFA describes the role as being "eyes on and hands off" to avoid compromising the Governing Body's discretion in managing the Academy.