

The Crossways Schools
Chair of Governors Annual Statement 2018-19

The Governing Body has had a productive year, supporting and challenging the Executive Head Teacher and Staff appropriately to ensure the school continues to grow and do the best for our pupils.

Areas of focus for the governors during the year have included:

Self Evaluation

It is good practice for governing bodies to regularly evaluate their effectiveness, therefore we completed a review at the beginning of the year. There were three areas we identified that we would like to improve upon: our approach to reviewing policies; how well we listen to, understand and respond to pupils, parents and staff; and how we report on our work to parents and the local community.

We have made a good start in implementing changes, including meeting with the School Council, attending assemblies and writing a section in the Newsletter. We will continue to develop these areas in the coming year.

School development

We have monitored more closely the actions taken as part of the school development plan throughout the year, including governors meeting with staff responsible for increasing STEM participation across the schools, and the actions put in place to improve girls achievement and confidence in maths. Our core monitoring of disadvantaged children, children with special education needs as well as all children's attainment and progress has continued, balancing extending praise to staff when appropriate, with the need to ask the right questions to ensure the best teaching and learning for our pupils.

Budgeting

We have continued our careful scrutiny of the schools' financial positions, planning for known future events and using scenario testing to understand the extent of our financial resilience. Whilst we are not financially comfortable, the strong financial controls performed by the finance staff and Executive Head Teacher mean we are in position to continue to invest in staffing, technology, sports and building maintenance that all contribute to the pupils daily experience.

Mental Health and Well Being

We have increased our focus on the well being of both the staff and the pupils this year, through the Staff Development Committee and the introduction of a new Governor role for Children's Mental Health and Well Being (which mirrors the staff lead introduced this year in this area). Good progress has been made, but I look forward to these roles developing even further in the coming year.

School brand

We have recently announced our new school vision, chosen by staff, parents, governors and pupils. The vision articulates what is at the heart of Crossways. The vision will start to be more visible and become familiar to the school community in the coming year.

We have also overseen the production of the new schools' video, to showcase to the community all of the wonderful things that Crossways has to offer. The theme we chose for this film is progression, capturing how the pupils develop from five year olds to eleven year olds, ready for the next step in their journeys.

It has been a privilege to have completed my first year as Chair of Governors of the schools, I would like to thank my fellow governors for all the time and hard work they have volunteered this year.

The governors have already started to think about our priorities for next year and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together with the staff, parents, pupils and CPTA.

Kind regards
Emma Aiken-Jones
Chair of Governors