

Governing Board update - December 2023

The Autumn Term Full Governing Board meeting took place Tuesday 5 December 2023, in school.

The meeting, as usual, focused around the school vision: Learning to Live, Living to Love, Loving to Learn.

Governors noted the recent Ofsted visit - I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Whitehead and the staff team, governors and the wider school community, for their hard work and commitment to the school, which was evident throughout the Ofsted process.

Minutes of the 12 September 2023 Full Governing Board meeting were approved. These will be put on the school website.

Governors heard updates from the October Curriculum committee and November Finance and Resource committee meetings, and the annual pay and headteacher performance management committee meetings.

Governors then heard an update from myself, as Chair, and discussed the current 'local school' executive headteacher support arrangements - discussion included a focus on staff well-being and school resilience.

Governors looked in detail at the December 2023 Headteachers Report with Mr Whitehead, including a focus on: attendance; punctuality; term-time holidays; behaviour and more broadly attainment.

Governors then looked at safeguarding, discussing the October 2023 safeguarding governor monitoring visit and the North Yorkshire School Adviser's safeguarding and attendance visit report. Mr Whitehead outlined the actions in place following the school adviser's report.

Governors are reassured that safeguarding remains a key priority for the school and that appropriate responses are in place to support all children.

Governors next discussed the academisation agenda, the process by which schools move from local authority status to multi-academy trusts - a Government aspiration from the March 2022 Schools White Paper.

Governors noted local developments and what appears to be a renewed post-pandemic national trend towards academy status and agreed to continue to monitor developments through future Full Governing Board meetings and ensure that the school remains in the strongest possible position.

Governors then looked at parental engagement, and the notes from the October 2023 Parent Forum meeting - governors reflected with Mr Whitehead and Miss Akrigg on the messages from the meeting.

My thanks to all parents and carers who have joined these sessions - governors see parents and carers as active contributors to school and the Parent Forum is an important part of school's communication with parents and carers.

Governors then approved updated school policies, including on: inclusion; special educational needs and disabilities; and behaviour, and the latest Pupil, Parent and Guardian Privacy Notice.

Key school policies can be seen through the school website.

Governors next reflected on the governor training and the skills audit and a circular approach to governor self-evaluation using the diocese self-evaluation question framework - both Mr Whitehead and myself recognise that governors give their time freely to school and look to ensure that 'workload' is a consideration in the school's approach to governance.

Further information on the work of the governing board can be seen on the school website at: www.kildwickceschool.org.uk

The Christmas break will shortly be upon us - I wish you all the very best and, if it is not too early, a lovely Christmas and happy new year.



John Perry
Chair of Governors
December 2023