



Governors' Annual Report to Parents

2020-21

The Governing Body is made up of a group of enthusiastic people with a variety of experience, who are all dedicated to ensuring the children at Aqueduct Primary School receive a rich and high-quality education. They work together as at a strategic level to hold the Headteacher and senior school leaders to account for the operational day to day running of the school. The main responsibilities of the Governors have been to work with the Headteacher and Senior Leaders to achieve the following core functions of Effective Governance:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.



The academic year 2020-21 delivered several challenges to the education of our children, but at Aqueduct Primary School, the children, their education, and their wellbeing remained at the heart of all we do.

Who are we and how do we work together?

As a Governing Body we have a breadth of experience which we bring to the role - we range from those with an education background to those who work in the corporate world of IT, finance, and aeronautics - but we all have one thing in common - we want the very best for the children at Aqueduct Primary School. To find out more about the role of the Governors and who we are, please visit our school website where you will find a short pen portrait for each member of the Governing Body.

We are all dedicated to providing the very best outcomes for all groups of pupils. We have a clear set of values that we review regularly using feedback from staff, parents, pupils, and Governors. These are at the forefront of all our decision-making and appear on all our documentation. Our vision statement reflects our belief in a positive future for all our pupils building on our chosen values - that they will be our citizens of tomorrow and we can empower them to be the very best members of our community that they can be. All Governors attend ongoing training related to setting the vision for the school and their link responsibilities as well as statutory training such as child protection and

safeguarding. Training attended this year includes training around Safeguarding and monitoring budgets and School's Financial value Standard. Governors are an integral part of the school community and have continued their work remotely throughout the academic year. They also create positive links within the local community - for example with other schools and local councillors.

At the beginning of the academic year 2019-20 the school was informed by Telford and Wrekin Local Authority that following its annual assessment of a range of performance indicators contained within its 'Securing School Improvement Policy', that the school was judged to be category 2a. This means that it is considered that the school leadership has the capacity to make sustained improvements and ensure that pupil achievement is at least in line with national averages. This is a reflection of the hard work of all involved with Aqueduct Primary School and their determination to ensure the best educational experience for all our children.

In order to carry out our statutory duties we met formally as a group six times, as we do each year. Prior to our full board meetings, the Head Teacher and myself attend the termly Telford and Wrekin Local Authority Heads and Chairs Briefing sessions. These ensure that we are fully conversant of any national policy changes and are able to benefit from the sharing of good educational practice across the local authority.

What do we do?

Here are just a few examples of the type of activities that Governors have undertaken during the academic year 2020-21:

- Monitoring activities in school including external review from Severn Teaching School Alliance
- Held Committees- including Finance and Curriculum
- Performance Management of the Headteacher
- Attend meetings held with the Local Authority
- Reviewed and Ratified the Budget
- Fulfilled all other statutory requirements
- Attended training within Link Governor Area e.g., budget, SVFS
- Monitoring the Single Central Record
- Ensuring Safeguarding Procedures are robust and participating in audits
- Supported Staff throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic to ensure that all legislation and guidance was being followed, ensuring Aqueduct Primary School is COVID secure
- Monitored spending of PE and Sports and Pupil Premium Grant allocation

We continue to work with the Head Teacher and teaching team to review, and amend where necessary, all School policies to ensure their currency and relevance. In addition to educational priorities, Safeguarding and promoting Equality & Diversity are always at the forefront of our work, ensuring that Aqueduct Primary School is a fully inclusive and safe learning environment for pupils, staff, and the entirety of the school community. This is reflected in our curriculum, which is closely monitored by governors to ensure high quality and robust educational experiences are on offer for all our children, supporting them to become good citizens of the future.

What will we do next?

We strive to ensure consistently improving outcomes for all of our children, in a safe and happy learning environment; where there are high aspirations for all, and children are well prepared for life beyond primary school. We will focus closely on how the school continues to secure improvement in

progress for disadvantaged children and other significant groups for all year groups, as well as working to ensure that children reach age related expectations in reading, writing and maths at the end of key stages, and that even more children secure greater depth standard. We will also ensure that the recovery curriculum and associated catch up funding is utilised effectively to support the progress of our children. We will continue to support senior leaders to achieve this and will challenge and hold them to account to ensure the very best for all children at our school.

We are incredibly proud of the progress made by all the children at Aqueduct Primary School during the past year in the face of great adversity and challenge and will continue to work hard with all the staff to ensure this is maintained and further improved upon.

Together, we are 'Building Tomorrow, Leading the Way'.

