



Malbank School & Sixth Form College

Governance Statement November 2021



Introduction

The work of the Governing Body in 2021 has, unsurprisingly, focused on how standards in School can be improved and also effectively managing the impact which the pandemic has had on its students, both in terms of learning and wellbeing. It has also been necessary for the Governors to ensure that the School has effectively managed other issues connected to the pandemic (e.g. risk assessments, testing and teacher assessment).

Pre-pandemic the School received a judgment of Requiring Improvement from Ofsted. Since then the School has seen the appointment of a new Headteacher (arising from retirement of the outgoing Head) and with it, significant changes to the School's approach to raising standards. The Governors share the Head Teacher's determination to improve outcomes for all of its students whilst retaining and improving upon the excellent work done by the school historically in keeping its students safe and meeting their emotional needs as well. Key strategies which the governors have been involved with include : Make the 60 matter, the successful drive to improve attendance, much enhanced rigour around Behaviour for Learning and supporting the school in the various measures which have been embedded to assess and improve the quality of teaching standards throughout the School, together with Deep Dives with increased accountabilities for any department in which students have not historically achieved the outcomes which the Governors expect.

Owing to the pandemic the School has been deprived of the opportunity to see the impact of this work verified through external examination but as a Governing Body we are confident that the School has significantly improved over the past two academic years and has the capacity to sustain improvement moving forwards. We believe this is something which has been acknowledged by our local community as evinced by the positive feedback which the School has had in response to key initiatives (for example change in uniform to support improved standards of behaviour and pride within the School community) and also is reflected through the significantly increased number of students who are now choosing to come to **Malbank** to study.

The Governors have continued to work with Mr Harrison and the School's Finance Team to ensure that the School sets, and operates within, a responsible budget whilst at the same time embedding new systems and technologies to support improvements in teaching and learning. Additionally, the Governing Body has worked with the School in its plans to modernise the School site, including completion last year of a new teaching block, refurbishment of the Edge Hill Conference Suite, improvement to lighting around the site, refurbishment of PE changing facilities and improvement to the two art rooms. This modernising work will continue in 2022 and beyond.

Governing Body Responsibilities

The Governors are committed to:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school. This is being achieved through the Governors working in a rigorous but collaboratively manner with the Head and SLT through the medium of FGB, Committees, and proactive involvement in recruitment processes.
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance and the organisation of its pupils, and the effective and sufficient performance management of staff. This is achieved through Governor working on a range of committees with clear remits for driving performance, improvement and scrutiny in many aspects integral to the efficient and successful management of the School. These include School Improvement Committee, Resources Committee, Careers & Guidance, Pay Committee, Complaints, Pupil Discipline and Exclusion Committee, Staff Grievance Committee and Appeals Committee. Additionally, Governors have key areas of responsibility, reporting into FGB, which supports additional scrutiny of performance in School.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its monies are well spent. This is achieved through Governors at Resources Committee and FGB scrutinising the financial performance of the School, being integral to how the budget is formulated and delivered. Additionally, suitably skilled Governors provide extra scrutiny through the management of the SFVS process and annual audit of MIFP.
- Promoting the highest possible standards for Safeguarding. This is achieved through the Governors having appointed a suitably trained and skilled Governor to support this area, who works closely with the School in relation to Safeguarding issues. Additionally, the School Safeguarding Officer reports to Governors periodically in relation to this area of work.
- Ensure that stakeholder voices are heard. This is achieved through Governors supporting periodic proactive assessment of stakeholder views and giving these views due consideration in the decision-making process which occurs in Committee / FGB meetings.

If you have any suggestions for how the School can improve or are interested in how you may be able to assist the Governing Body, please contact Louise Cracknell.