

## **Annual Governance Statement for the governing body of VSSS July 2016**

In accordance with the government requirements for all governing boards the three core strategic functions of Virtual School Sensory Support are:

- Insuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the education performance of the school and it's pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure it's money is well spent.

### **Governance arrangements**

The governing board of VSSS was reconstituted in October 2013;

2 staff governors (including the Headteacher)  
5 parent governors  
1 local authority governor  
7 co-opted governors

The full governing body meets 3 times a year and has 2 committees to consider aspects of the school in detail. These are;

***Finance, Resources and Human Resources*** – this focuses on finance, staffing, resources, training and safeguarding. The Committee also has oversight of the Deaf Resource Bases.

***Curriculum, Teaching and Learning*** – this focuses on curriculum, teaching and learning, and pupil progress and attainment.

We also have committees that meet if required to consider disciplinary and staffing matters.

## **Attendance Record of Governors**

All committees have been quorate with the majority of governors having an excellent attendance record at meetings.

<b>Governor Attendance 2015-16</b>	
Governor	% of meetings attended
Hilary Bradshaw, Chair of Governors	100%
Dorothy Bowen, Chair Curriculum, Teaching & Learning Committee	78%
Mark Farrington, Chair Finance, HR & Resources Committee/Parent Governor	67%
Paul Bowerbank, Safeguarding and E Safety Governor	78%
Helena Riches, Parent Governor	89%
Stuart Weaver, Parent Governor	89%
Paul Hallett, Parent Governor	83%
Sara-Jane Sutton, Parent Governor	78%
Claire Jack, Family Voice representative	11%
Gary Nethercott, NDCS representative	11%
John Fitzgerald	56%
Stuart Marpole	89%
Judith Carter	33%
Liz Read Beadle, Staff Governor	89%
Jamie McCluskey, Staff Governor	44%
Karen Taylor, Headteacher	100%

## **The work that we have done in our committees and the governing boards**

The governing body has had a particularly busy year focusing on;

### **Curriculum, Teaching and Learning**

- Received pupil progress and attainment data and interrogated this robustly
- Monitored the quality of teaching and learning via a report from the Headteacher in the Autumn Term
- Monitored the areas of the Development Plan linked to the Committee and received presentations on Maths, Phonics Guidance, Early Years and Deaf Studies Curriculum
- Monitored social media to ensure website is accessible and up to date and launched Facebook pages

- Development of an Action Plan based on the National Sensory Impairment Partnership (NatSIP) Quality Standards
- Monitored and reviewed the ICT, Early Years, Reading and Phonics for Visually Impaired and Deaf children and young people, Assessments, Anti-bullying, PSHEE for deaf and Visually Impaired, Life Skills for Visually Impaired, Study Skills and Braille Policy
- Approved the early years Local Offer DVD for visually impaired children and young people
- Received Headteacher's Report on Education, Health and Care Plans and Exclusions
- Standing items have been the Local Offer and SEN Funding

### **Finance, Resources and Human Resources**

- Monitored the budget and agreed reallocation of funding for equipment
- Completed the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) and this was approved by the Local Authority
- Reviewed and ratified a number of policies including safeguarding, lone working and health and safety
- Reviewed the safeguarding self review and audit
- We resolved an escalation from staff with Council provided ICT infrastructure via dialogue directly with Chief Executive of NCC
- Reviewed and monitored well-being action plan following a well-being survey for the Visually Impaired and Deaf children and young people teams
- Approved pay and progression of teachers and the pay policy in line with appraisal policy
- Organised and carried out the Headteacher's performance management
- Supported staff recruitment
- Responded to the national consultation on the High Needs Block and national schools formula
- Monitored the post 16 provision and discussed possible ways forward including predicting income for the future
- Continued to monitor the development of the Deaf Resource Base at City Academy – first 6 months indicated positive developments but recent reports indicate concerns by staff around general school behaviour issues

- Monitored the progress of the Education, Health and Care Plans transition and in response to concerns raised by parents, governors and staff have initiated a wider survey to feed back to the Commissioner
- Agreed funding to support succession planning for mandatory qualification and successfully recruited a teacher of the deaf
- Monitored the areas of the Development Plan linked to the Committee
- Received presentations from staff in relation to the monitoring of the Development Plan on Deaf Resource Bases, Raising Aspirations and Deaf Studies
- Approved the early years Local Offer DVD for visually impaired children and young people

### **Full Governing Body**

- Reviewed the VSSS Development Plan against national Quality Standards alongside senior staff as part of a development away day
- Received presentations on E Safety, Multi-Sensory Impairment Provision and Head of Inclusion Service
- Discussed the primary and secondary funding systems consultation and high needs blocks consultation
- Received benchmarking report from Headteacher comparing VSSS against statistical neighbours evidencing value for money and high quality provision
- Reviewed and approved the Terms of Reference of the two sub committees
- Received and challenged the Headteacher's report including the feedback from children and young people
- Approved the Safeguarding Policy

## **Governor Visits**

Governors have carried out 25 monitoring visits, participation in events and meetings with their staff buddies including;

- Teddy Bear's Picnic at Sandringham
- Attendance at team meetings
- Shadowing various members of staff
- Meetings with business support staff
- Joint training
- Joint events with NNAB
- Maths Guidance Day
- Reading Day
- Away Day with Senior Staff to develop strategic priorities

Outcomes include the following;

- Review of the Staff/Governor Buddy System
- Co-production of the Virtual School Development Plan
- Review of referral procedures for visually impaired
- Celebrate success of students
- Production of early years DVD
- Improvements to MSI Policy through challenge
- Development of co-working with voluntary bodies

## **Future Priorities for the Governors**

- Prevent Training
- Governor Visits and attendance at meetings – further improve frequency
- Buddy System – review with staff
- Appoint a training governor
- Recommissioning of Deaf Resource Bases
- Transition of Education, Health and Care Plans and make a proactive proposal on how to improve the system for conversion
- Consider the impact of funding changes including Post 16 education and early years. Develop further engagement with FE/HE providers.
- Consider further analysis of referrals through new-born hearing screening
- Staff/governor event