



The Westminster School

Safe, Happy and Learning Together

Governors' Annual Report to Parents 2016/17



Governors are pleased to report that The Westminster School continues to go from strength to strength and that they have fulfilled their statutory duties. Governors have worked hard to support Mrs Hill and her team and become actively involved in the life of the School.

The full Governing Board consists of ten members and is chaired by Mr Ken Ellis. The Full Board has met four times this year and each of the sub-committees ie the Performance Committee (chaired by Mrs P Evans) and the Resources Committee (chaired by Mrs S Gough) have met three times.

There have been numerous other visits by Governors to meet with staff and pupils to focus upon specific areas of work including literacy and pupil premium, special educational needs and e-safety.

All Governors have been offered, and have taken part in, a number of professional development training courses. These have included developing their role as effective Governors, safeguarding and e-safety. In June Governors joined senior staff for a strategic planning day.

In September, at our first full board meeting, Governors carried out a skills audit to ensure that we have the necessary expertise to enable us to function effectively. We have appointed two new Governors this year. Throughout the year the Chair of Governors, sometimes accompanied by the Vice Chair, has met regularly with the Head Teacher. These meetings have focussed upon reviewing different aspects of the School Development Plan to monitor progress and to discuss important strategies. The Chair has also attended meetings of the Senior Leadership Team, the Campus Liaison Committee and meetings with the School Improvement Partner.

Governors have contributed to, and have reviewed, their section of School Development Plan. This section has three main areas of focus, namely:

- The further development of the Governor's role in monitoring and evaluating.
- To develop a highly skilled and effective Governing Board.
- For the Governors to support the School to inform strategic planning and future development.

Governors continue to review policies to ensure that all guidance is current, up-to-date and is complied with. These are all available for you to view on the School website. Particular focus is made on ensuring that our pupils are happy, learning and are kept safe in School.

The School continues to face a number of challenges. Demands for places at the School, despite us being full, continues to grow. Currently we have more than 20 pupils than originally planned for. After a lot of effort, we have managed to recruit and retain a wonderful team of staff who are dedicated to providing the very best for our pupils. Governors are determined to keep investing in their training and support. Maintaining a balanced budget is always a challenge. However, Governors are pleased to continue investing in the development of new facilities in the School and its grounds, and to support the very large number of School visits and residential experiences offered by staff. They are also very appreciative of those staff who give freely of their time to support these activities.

There is a section of our website which is focussed on Governance matters and we regularly update this.

K Ellis
Chair of Governors