

Annual Statement of the Governing Body

The John of Gaunt School

Academic year 2016/2017

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Overview

The governors of The John of Gaunt School pledge to create a welcoming environment in which students, parents/carers, staff and all others enjoy their contact with the school.

Core Strategic functions

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of The John of Gaunt School Governing Body are:

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;

Governors are responsible for setting the school's strategic framework, identifying priorities for school improvement and monitoring progress towards these goals. Governors are also responsible for setting a school ethos of high expectations of behaviour, progress and attainment of all students and of conduct of staff and governors.

Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students;

Governors must provide challenge to the school and hold the Headteacher and senior leaders to account for improving the quality of teaching and learning and school performance. Governors do this through questioning and through regular monitoring and analysis of data on students' performance and progress. Governors hold the Headteacher to account for the performance management of teachers. The performance management of the Headteacher is conducted by governors together with an external advisor.

Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure it's money is well spent.

Governors look at financial statements and ask questions to ensure that the school makes efficient use of its budget and provides best value for money. Risks to the organisation are reviewed and challenged by the Audit committee.

The John of Gaunt Governor's Pledge

The School's vision:

'Creating an irresistible climate for achievement'

- We challenge, support and encourage every student to **achieve their potential**.
- We believe **effort** and **dedication** lead to success and we **raise aspirations**.
- We **personalise our provision** to meet the needs of individuals.
- We enable our students to flourish as **confident learners and leaders** of our community.
- We create a culture where all stakeholders **feel valued, supported and proud**.
- We **work collaboratively** to improve outcomes for our students and support other schools to improve.

The Governors pledge to turn this vision into reality by providing:

- An aspirational climate for learning for every student in our inclusive and secular school;
- an expectation that every learner is challenged to do their best at all times, both in learning and in personal conduct;

- a cooperative culture governed by such principles as respect, courtesy, fairness, equality and involvement.

Support and challenge for everyone within the school community enables:

- Quality staff to be recruited, trained, retained and led to inspire learning and offer support to every student.
- Learners to receive exceptional support and guidance within, and where necessary beyond the school.
- Leadership and governance to be outstanding, reflective and self-critical.
- Excellent financial management.
- Close liaison and good communication with parents and carers.

The school will be outward looking:

- Learning from best practice so as to provide a broad, balanced, relevant and innovative student offer.
- Working with a wider community of schools, colleges, local government, employees and others to best serve the interests of our students and those in our extended network.

The school will work in the long-term interests of learners and families by:

- fostering in its students readiness for the post-school world and,
- encouraging and nurturing values and behaviour that will enable them to be high achieving, responsible and self-directing adults who add value to the lives of others.

Structure of the Governing Body

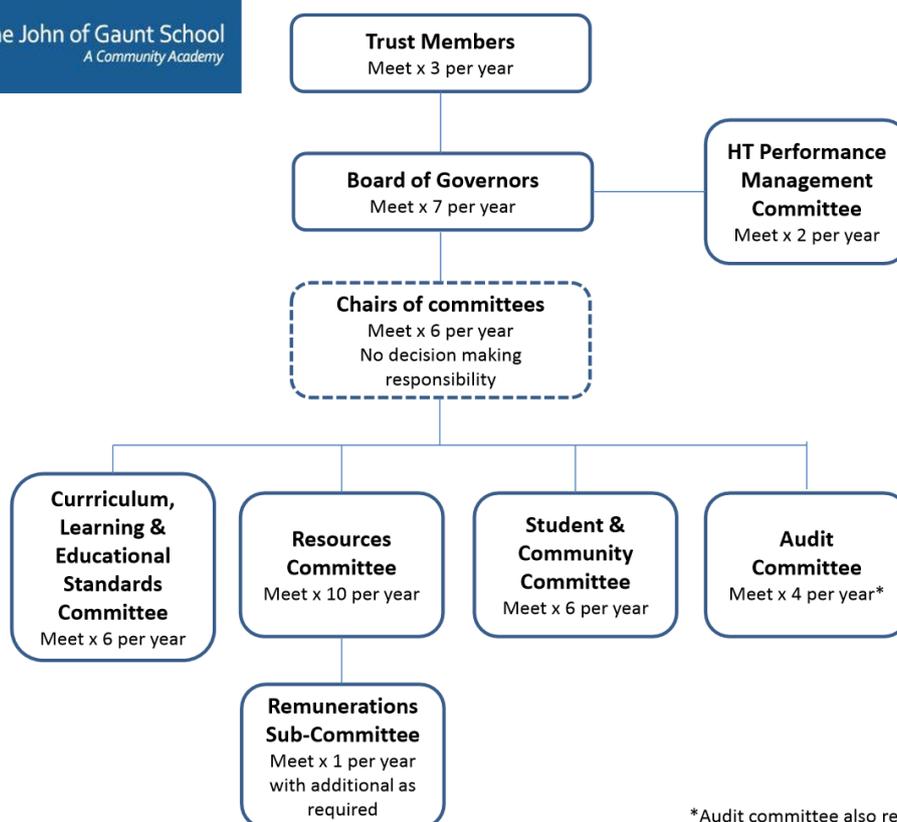
The Governing Body was re-constituted under the 2012 School Governance Regulations in April 2016 with a revised governing body membership of 18 governors, 5 of which are also Members.

The Governing Body currently includes:

- 4 Staff Governors (including the Headteacher)
- 4 elected Parent Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 9 Co-opted Governors

A full list of governors and their attendance at meetings is available to view on the school website.

As per statutory requirements all members of The John of Gaunt School governors hold an enhanced criminal records certificate from the DBS. Details of these certificates are held by the school.



*Audit committee also responsible for H&S site visits x 4 per year.

School Improvement Plan

The John of Gaunt School Improvement Plan 2016-18 shows very clearly that we have high expectations not only for students but for everyone who works within the school.

Governors work co-operatively with the head teacher and senior management in the writing and monitoring of the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The current SIP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SIP lays out clear strategies and tasks, and responsibilities, while identifying the resources required. Monitoring procedures and governor involvement are also included.

The current school improvement plan can be found on the school website.

Principal work items completed by the John of Gaunt School's Governing Body for Academic year 2016/2017

- CLES (Curriculum, Learning and Educational Standards) adjusted its working practices this academic year, focusing each meeting on the most up to date live data available to identify patterns and to enable swift action to be taken where deemed necessary.
- There has been a focus on raising achievement in literacy this school year with the expectation that this can help to improve outcomes for students in all subjects.

- Attendance was a prime target for the Student and Community committee with obvious correlation between attendance and achievement. The school have taken bold steps in 2016/2017, the governors have been monitoring the effect of these changes and challenging strategies.
- The shift to horizontal tutoring was a matter for discussion with concerns voiced, balancing benefits and losses compared to vertical tutoring. Governors will be closely monitoring the impact of this change as it is implemented in September 17, working with Senior Leadership and Student Leadership to ensure that none of the school's core values and ethics are lost with this adjustment.
- Safeguarding is always a high priority for the Governors of the John of Gaunt School. This year all Governors have updated their safeguarding training, as well as ensuring that the previously reported high standards in this area are maintained. The link governor for safeguarding was called out in this year's audit as being particularly effective and knowledgeable.
- A school PTA has been started with initial help from the Governing body. We have high hopes that this committed group will help to bring some much-needed funds into the school whilst strengthening links to the local community.
- The school's forecast budgeting health has improved significantly over the past 3 years due to the combined efforts of the school's SLT and the Resources committee. A concern on the school's risk register has been cleared as a result.
- It was decided that the previous plan of running staff numbers as tight as possible whilst the school has reserves was not the right philosophy. As a result additional posts have been created for 2017/2018 and Governors will be monitoring closely for the impact on achievement.
- Governors have supported various capital bids for campus improvement and sanction use of school reserves also with this aim.
- A governors' skills audit was completed at the start of the school year 2016. The need to replace the retiring SEN Governor was highlighted and a Co-opted Governor was recruited to the team. However, that person has since accepted an SLT role within the school, so the search for another Governor with appropriate skills is a priority for 2017/2018. The Governors also feel that they have a gap in legal knowledge, which currently is filled by getting external advice when required. Again, work will be done in 2017/2018 to see if this gap can be filled with a new member.
- Governors now contribute to the parents' newsletter to help explain our role, who we are, and the work that is undertaken.
- A 360° review of chair carried was carried out during the year, which concluded that we have a good chair in place.
- The introduction of a Chairs committee. Although this committee has no decision making powers, and all Governors are invited to attend, the intention of the meeting is to ensure that Board and all committees are working at the right level and are achieving the outcomes that are planned. Also this committee looks at a strategic view of the Governors moving forward.

Credits

Our sincere thanks go to Mike Gunston, the senior leadership team, and all the John of Gaunt staff for their commitment to our school as well as the continuing collaboration shown by all in this academic year. A final word to our students who are of course the foundation of our successful and wonderful school, it is a pleasure to work with them and for the benefit of them. We look forward to working with everyone at the school in 2017 / 2018.