

# Annual Statement of the Governing Body

## The John of Gaunt School

Academic year 2017/2018

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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 its 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 Governors' 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 2012 with a revised governing body membership of 17 governors, 5 of which are also Members.

**The Governing Body currently includes:**

3 staff governors (including the Headteacher)

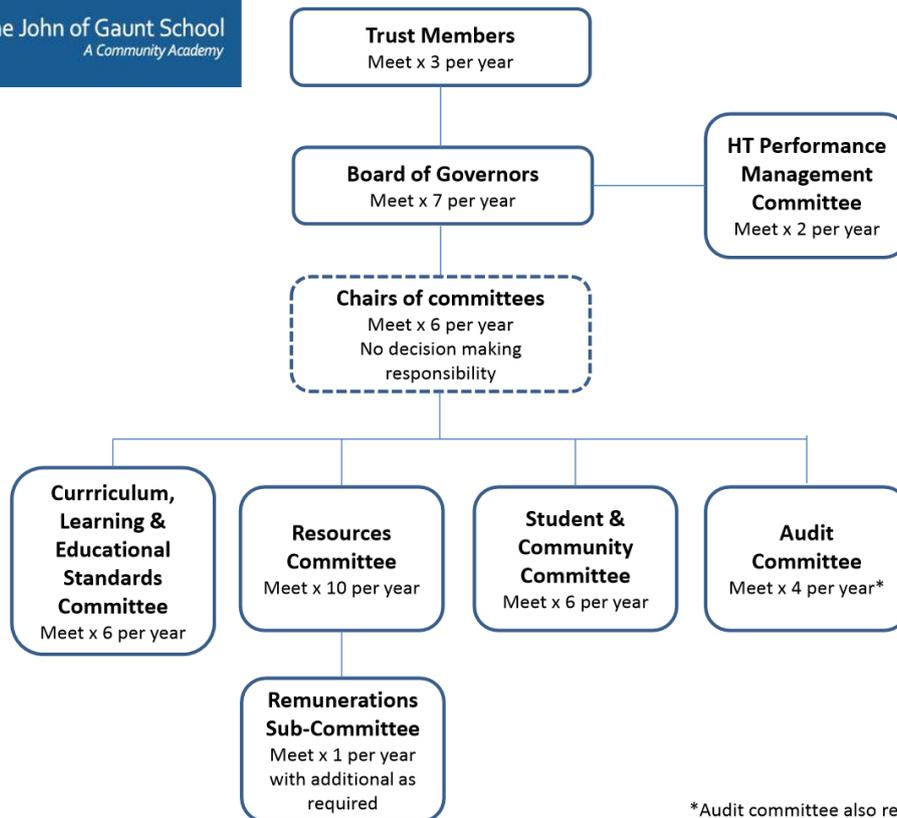
3 elected Parent Governors

10 Appointed Governors

1 Co-opted Governor

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, tasks and responsibilities, while identifying the resources required. Monitoring procedures and governor involvement are also included.

## Principal work items completed by The John of Gaunt School's Governing Body for Academic year 2017/2018

- The visit of OFSTED to school is always a challenge for the school and the Governors. Whilst the Governors had confidence that The John of Gaunt is a good school, we hoped that the OFSTED inspectors would leave the school with the same impression. And they did. The lead OFSTED inspector commented on the high commitment of the Governing body, advising he had never seen so many Governors turn up to support the school on the day of inspection.
- The hiring of a new headteacher is a difficult and daunting task. As the figure head and leader of the school the Governors felt it was vital to find someone who would continue with the core ethos of our inclusive and welcoming school, but we were

open to someone with new ideas to take The John of Gaunt into the future. We believe that we have found this person in Paul Skipp

- The new GDPR law came into being in May 2018. Both the school and the governing body paid great attention to this change of law, not only to ensure compliance, but also to ensure that as trustees of significant data about our students, we kept this safe, secure and accessible by only those who should have access.
- A new initiative called Talk for Writing was introduced into the school with strong support from the CLES committee. T4W brings the language of each subject to the forefront, bringing the terminology for each subject to life, and helping to improve literacy across the school. Many of the Governors attended a Teacher Training day in February when the author of Talk for Writing, Julia Strong, taught all the teachers in the school the new concepts and methods of T4W. The afternoon of that day saw the teachers and Governors talking and working together on the plans for implementation.
- Once again attendance was a prime target for the Student and Community committee because of the obvious correlation between attendance and achievement. The bold steps taken in 2016/2017, have shown some positive outcomes, but the governors and the school are aware that these targets need to continue to improve in the forthcoming year.
- The decision to convert to horizontal tutoring was a matter of much discussion last year with the change being made in September 17. The Governors have been closely monitoring the impact of this change and are pleased with the results it has brought. The Governors are also pleased that the school has taken up the challenge of continuing strong vertical activities, focusing on the House system to ensure that none of the school's core values and ethics were lost with this adjustment.
- Safeguarding is always a high priority for the Governors of The John of Gaunt School. Once again, 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 again mentioned in this year's audit as being particularly effective and knowledgeable.
- The Friends of The John of Gaunt School were successful in raising funds for the provision of a community public access defibrillator which has been placed outside the school gates to enable its ease of access.

## 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. We wish Mike all the best in his new school and we warmly welcome Paul Skipp as our incoming head for 18/19. 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 their benefit. We look forward to working with everyone at the school in 2018 / 2019.