

**Lawley Primary School**  
**Governor's annual impact statement 2022/23**

**'Planting the seeds, growing the future'.**

### **Introduction and overview**

This impact statement has been written to provide an overview of the role the governing body has in school leadership and the impact that has had on school improvement throughout the 2022/2023 academic year. The governing body is made up of a group of volunteers who invest a significant amount of time and work to improve the school experience and education for every child at school. Governors work with and support the Headteacher and Senior Leadership team to shape the strategic direction of the school.

The governing body at Lawley Primary School has three core functions:

- Setting the strategic direction of the school
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensure resources are well spent.

There have been a number of changes in membership of the governing body in the last year. Our former chair and another experienced member of the board gave their notice which has meant a change in leadership and an exercise to recruit new members. This has not had an effect on the strong working relationship between the governing body and the school, and it has provided existing members with the chance to take on training and upskill in new areas.

More information about the governing body is available [here](#). If you wish to contact the governors, this is done via emailing or passing a letter to school reception.

### **The impact of the governing board**

Governors work closely with the Headteacher and SLT in monitoring the School Development Plan (SDP). This document underpins a number of the strategic aims set for the school in the academic year. It is based on priorities identified from school data, national data (including any priorities from the Department for Education/Ofsted) and recommendations from our local School Improvement Partner. The SDP identifies the development priorities, how each aspect of the plan will be implemented and a clear description of the success criteria.

Governors attend two full governing body (FGB) meetings per term. These meetings are the main method for the Headteacher to share information and updates on a number of areas on school news, performance, and progress. Governors are provided with a number of inputs before the meetings which means they can be reviewed thoroughly in advance and used to ask pertinent questions, challenge where necessary and also provide support. Governors also share any visit reports they have done in school or any work they have done with teaching staff in school. These insights also can help to support or challenge the school in terms of the SDP.

Governors provide strong support for the Headteacher and staff. The wellbeing of staff has been a priority, particularly through the pandemic but also now that school has been back open all year. Earlier this year one of the governors worked with school to review the mental health provision for

both the children and staff. The outcome of this report was a number of actions and recommendations – these have been monitored and reviewed throughout the year to ensure action is still being taken where needed.

Our SEND link governor has worked closely with the school SENCO to build relationships with the parents of children with SEND as part of a broader programme of work around SEND provision in school. They have started running informal coffee mornings to welcome parents and start to build a community.

All governors have and continue to undergo significant training. The impact of this is that they are kept up to date with the latest requirements and expectations and can therefore ensure school are also keeping up to date with these requirements. This year governors have attended training on safeguarding, Ofsted, SEND and Prevent.

One of the core functions of the governing body is to oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure resources are well spent. School budgets are examined in detail at the governors meetings, and governors use both local and national benchmarking data to examine the budget and challenge around costs where necessary. The governors have made a number of decisions around financial spend this year, including the outdoor classroom and library renovations. Governors also work with school to ensure best value practices are in place through school procurement policies such as ensuring three quotes are provided for any items or services over a designated amount. By scrutinising the quotes for work like this, governors can be satisfied that the school receives good value for money and also is using resources to benefit all students.

Governors also monitor how funding for dedicated groups of pupils is spent. At the beginning of the academic year, one of our governors worked with the Headteacher to produce a pupil premium strategy statement, which outlined the amount of Pupil Premium Funding (PPF) that would be available for the year, the intended outcomes of this funding, how it would be spent to achieve those outcomes and defined success criteria. This is then reviewed through the year using information to examine whether the measures put in place for those children is resulting in their improved attainment.

Governors review and approve all school policies annually. These are done throughout the year during FGB meetings. Governors have been able to ensure that policies have been put into practice during their visits into school, which are then documented and shared back with the rest of the governing body. Some of the policies reviewed by the governors this year include:

- Admissions
- Code of Conduct
- Health and Safety
- Uniform
- Lettings

More information on school policies can be found on the school website:

<http://lawleyprimary.co.uk/parents-carers/policies>

There is a member of the governing body who has completed 'safer recruitment' training and has worked with the SLT in assessing, interviewing and recruiting new staff. Being part of the recruitment process means governors can assure themselves that school are putting the appropriate policies in

place when it comes to recruitment, and also have a view around which staff will be the best fit for the school, and so who will benefit the children most significantly.

Keeping up to date with current safeguarding recommendations and best practice is a key priority for all governors. All members of the governing board attend detailed safeguarding training. The Headteacher produces an annual safeguarding audit which the governing body can use to ensure the processes and practises within school are robust. There is a link governor who works with school specifically around safeguarding, but all governors have a strong knowledge of their responsibilities. School visits are one way in which governors can ensure that the safeguarding culture is firmly embedded throughout the school.

Our governing body has strong links with the school PTFA and is keen to create these links across the local community too. For the past two Christmases there has been a local Christmas Smile donation point in school, which enables people from all over Lawley to make a donation to charity, but it also helps the children within school learn about their wider community and what they can do to participate. School also supports Telford Crisis Support through donations at Harvest festival, and members of the charity have visited school to talk to the children about what they do.

This year has seen the start of the OPAL play initiative, which will be rolled out across school over the next 18 months. This will see a significantly different approach to playtime, with numerous changes planned in terms of what the children can access during playtime and the activities that will be available. The research shows that there are significant benefits for children in schools who use this programme, and the governing body has been involved from attending the initial working group, reviewing the initial proposal and policy, and will be monitoring the progress and outcomes from the programme as it goes on.

## Overview of the year



Staff have been delighted to be able to take children back out on school trips again this year. These have included Arthog, cinema trips, Long Mountain, Wonderland, the Exotic Zoo and the John Muir award. School is committed to ensuring that all children have access to these trips, including taking SEND children to the site in advance so it is familiar to them.



The children have had numerous visitors come into school to talk about a range of subjects including authors, emergency services and religious leaders. They have learned about Black History month, held a Macmillan coffee morning, and even had a visit from Pudsey!



Parents have enjoyed Christmas performances in person again this year, and also Rocksteady performances throughout the year. Year 4 and 6 parents were able to see their children perform at Young Voices in Birmingham which was an amazing evening.



Children have enjoyed a number of events organised and run by the school PTFA including the Christmas Fair and the school discos.



Students have excelled in a number of team sports competitions, both representing Lawley Primary and other teams outside of school. We have children who have also been successful individually in a range of different sports and hobbies.



The Governing Board would like to thank all staff, pupils and their families for their hard work and support over the last 12 months. We wish our outgoing Year 6 students and their families huge good luck in the next chapter of their education, and look forward to welcoming the new Reception children in September.

Wishing you a happy and restful summer holiday.

The Lawley Primary School Governing Board.