



Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of King James's School

July 2017

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

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Headteacher and Governing Body work in close partnership. The Head is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school, implementing the strategic framework established with the Governing Body.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of King James's School is currently made up of:

- Two Parent Governors – Sarah Tabor (Vice Chair), vacancy
- One Local Authority Governor – Steve Johnson
- Two Staff Governors – Rob Snow, Carl Sugden
- Ten Co-opted Governors – Andrew Knight (Chair), Pat Dunnill, Rebecca Evans, John Heap, Andy Howard, Dennis James, Mark McKenzie, Sophie Ramplin, Mike Smith, Rob Whitehead

Debbie Howard, Clerk to the Governors, is also in attendance at meetings.

In order to discharge its duties effectively, the Governing Body has a range of skills. These include experience and expertise in financial management, teaching and learning, school leadership, health and safety, safeguarding, performance management, premises, human resources and strategic planning.

In December 2015, Governors decided to move away from the committee structure used in the past towards a circular model of governance. This means that all business is now considered at full Governing Body meetings, which take place at least five times per year. Particular tasks, issues and concerns are delegated to:

- Standing working groups – the Governing Body currently has one standing working group, the Executive Finance Group
- Time-limited working groups – set up to research a particular issue and report back to the Governing Body

- Panels – for staff discipline, staff discipline appeals, pupil discipline, school complaints and Headteacher performance management

Attendance record of Governors

The Clerk to the Governors keeps a record of Governors' attendance at meetings. These are published annually on the school website. Meetings need to be quorate (that is half the members need to be in attendance) to ensure that decisions can be made.

Statutory duties

In 2016/17, we have undertaken our statutory duties with regard to:

- Financial management
- Safeguarding
- Performance management of the Headteacher
- Health and safety
- Reviewing and updating statutory policies
- Monitoring the effectiveness of pupil premium and catch-up funding.

Governors have undertaken a variety of training, including new Governor induction, Ofsted preparation, safer recruitment and safeguarding.

Development plan priorities

The Governing Body's work revolves around the school development plan. The current plan runs from September 2017 and will be reviewed in January 2018, July 2018 and September 2018 (after the exam results are in).

Our development plan is underpinned by our pastoral pledge and our curriculum pledge.

PASTORAL PLEDGE

To support your safety, well-being and learning you will have:

- A tutor who is your first contact and who will **support** and challenge you at King James's School.
- Clear guidance on our expectations to keep you **safe** and support your progress.
- Our commitment to work with your families and carers to ensure that you are **ready, respectful** and **engaged**
- Individual academic and pastoral mentoring with your tutor.
- A range of extra-curricular **opportunities** to help you develop as a **person**.
- The chance to develop your **aspirations**, future plans and the 'grit' to make the **best** of yourself

CURRICULUM PLEDGE

All Key Stages

- A 'Learning Journey' for the whole course or key stage and each learning cycle or unit
- Access to resources to improve your independent learning
- Regular feedback on how to progress
- The opportunity to feed back to staff
- Guidance on how to organise your learning

The key aims in the plan are:

To ensure that students are 'ready, respectful and engaged' through a high quality tutoring programme, a restorative behaviour policy, rewards for all, high attendance and punctuality and a shared definition of community.

To deliver quality first teaching to raise the achievement of our disadvantaged students through streamlined access to the best teaching strategies and effective intervention and support.

To invest in our staff CPD with impact on our priority areas.

To improve the quality of our data to enhance the accuracy of our assessments and target setting.