



Malbank School & Sixth Form College



Governance Statement March 2023

Introduction

The work of the Government Body in academic year 2021/22 was focussed upon supporting the school to improve educational and pastoral provision for its students in the aftermath of the pandemic and to ensure that the school had fully addressed themes for improvement identified in the previous Ofsted inspection. Pleasingly, the School's improvement was recognised when the school underwent inspection at the end of the summer term. The Governors consider that this improvement has also been recognised by our local community with the school enjoying improved numbers of applications into year 7 than has historically been the case. A focus for 2023/24 and beyond will be to similarly increase the appeal of the school for students in Year 12 and 13.

The previous academic year saw the retirement of a number of staff engaged in key strategic roles. The Governors have led successful recruitment processes intended to support the school's journey of improvement – including appointment of a new Deputy Head Teacher, School Business Manager and Head of Sixth form.

The Governors share the Head Teacher's determination to improve outcomes for all of its students whilst retaining and improving upon the excellent work done by the school historically in keeping its students safe and meeting their emotional needs as well. Key strategies which the governors have been involved with include : Project Zero, Make the 60 matter, the successful drive to improve attendance, enhanced rigour around Behaviour for Learning and supporting the school in the various measures which have been embedded to assess and improve the quality of teaching standards throughout the School, together with Deep Dives with increased accountabilities for any department in which students have not historically achieved the outcomes which the Governors expect.

The Governors have continued to work with Mr Harrison and the School's Finance Team to ensure that the school sets, and operates within, a responsible budget whilst at the same time embedding new systems and technologies to support improvements in teaching and learning. The Governing Body has also worked with the school in its continued efforts to improve the site. Finally, consistent with the direct of travel indicated in the 2022 Schools White Paper, the Governing Body will investigate how the school meets its obligation to become part of a strong multi academy trust by 2030.

Governing Body Responsibilities

The Governors are committed to: -

- *Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school.* This is being achieved through the Governors working in a rigorous but collaboratively with the Head and SLT through the medium of FGB, Committees, and proactive involvement in recruitment processes.

- *Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance and the organisation of its pupils, and the effective and sufficient performance management of staff.* This is achieved through Governor working on a range of committees with clear remits for driving performance, improvement and scrutiny in many aspects' integral to the efficient and successful management of the school. These include School Improvement Committee, Resources Committee, Careers & Guidance, Pay Committee, Complaints, Pupil Discipline and Exclusion Committee, Staff Grievance Committee and Appeals Committee. Additionally, Governors have key areas of responsibility, reporting into FGB, which supports additional scrutiny of performance in School.
- *Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its monies are well spent.* This is achieved through Governors at Resources Committee and FGB scrutinising the financial performance of the school, being integral to how the budget is formulated and delivered. Additionally, suitably skilled Governors provide extra scrutiny through the management of the SFVS process and annual audit of MIFP.
- *Promoting the highest possible standards for Safeguarding.* This is achieved through the Governors having appointed a suitably trained and skilled Governor to support this area, who works closely with the school in relation to Safeguarding issues. Additionally, the School Safeguarding Officer reports to Governors periodically in relation to this area of work.
- *Ensure that stakeholder voices are heard.* This is achieved through Governors supporting periodic proactive assessment of stakeholder views and giving these views due consideration in the decision-making process which occurs in Committee / FGB meetings.

If you have any suggestions for how the school can improve or are interested in how you may be able to assist the Governing Body, please contact Louise Cracknell.