



Robert Sandilands Primary School and Nursery Annual Statement of Effectiveness – Academic Year 2020/21

1. Introduction to the School and Governing Board

Robert Sandilands School is a one form entry (with one 'bulge year') all through primary school and nursery with a catchment area in the north of Newbury.

The school has a very strong commitment to the developing the unique qualities of each child and has a wide-ranging after school enrichment programme when circumstances permit.

Those children for whom pupil premium funds are received by the school have additional interventions as detailed on the pupil premium spend report on the school's website.

The school was inspected by OFSTED in November 2019 and found to be 'Good'. The OFSTED report was very positive about the school and the quality of the provision of education for our pupils.

2. Governance structure

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Governing Board are to: 1) ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; 2) hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; 3) overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring its money is well spent.

In 2020/21 the Governor Board met on eight occasions. However, from March 2020 onwards the Board has been meeting 'virtually' online due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 regulations and recommendations.

Minutes of the Governing Board meetings are added to the school website periodically throughout the year. The Instrument of Government can be viewed on the school website under the heading "The Governing Board". In 2020/21 the Chair of the Governing Board was Ian Nichol and the Vice Chair was Neil Cook.

The Governing Board has delegated some functions to two Committees - the Finance Committee which meets once each long term and the Pay Committee which meets in the autumn term. The Committees have terms of reference and a membership which are agreed by the Governing Board annually. Full details of Governing Board and Committee memberships are available on the school website here <http://bit.ly/2Kwg7vN>.

The governors normally use a range of means to communicate with parents but due to the restrictions of Covid-19 the opportunity to speak with parents and visit the school have been suspended. Governor's, although not able to regularly visit the school and undertake 'learning walks' on key areas of interest have completed a 'pupil voice' session concerning pupil well-being and regularly question and make enquiries at meetings. In addition, parent governors are able to share information and views with other board members.

Individual governors take on responsibilities for key areas of the school and report to the Governing Board on issues and progress in those areas. Governors also meet or speak to teachers, when possible, in the context of the school's curriculum area teams (CAT) to discuss and explore curriculum plans. In 2020/21 governors taking lead roles were:

	Key Areas of Responsibility	Curriculum Area Team (CAT)
Ian Nichol	Chair of Governing Board / Finance	Computing / Art & Design
Olga Bibbings	Chair of Finance	Science/ DT
Neil Cook	Chair of Finance / Health & Safety / Premises Governor	History / Geography / RE
Carli Colby	DATA, SEN & More Able Governor	Maths
Katy Patten	DATA, SEND /Equality	Maths
Jon Bastable	Pupil Premium Governor	PE / Music
Paul Archer	Finance	PE / Music
Alix Dickinson	PPG	Science / DT
Mary Wearn	Safeguarding Governor / Finance	PSHE / RSE
Janet Rimmer	EYFS	English

3. Attendance at meetings

Listed below are the attendance details for each Governing Board and committee meeting in 2020/21

NAME	FGB Meetings 2020/2021				Total FGB meetings held in 20/21 - Eight.				
	Sept 24th	Oct 15th	Dec 3rd	Jan 28th	Mar 18th	April 29th	May 13th	July 15th	Total Attended
Libby Bucknell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
Helen Lewis	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	7
Ian Nichol	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
Neil Cook	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	7
Janet Rimmer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
Mary Wearn	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
Katy Patten	n/a	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
Paul Archer	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Y	Y	N	Y	3
Alix Dickinson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Y	Y	Y	Y	4
Olga Bibbings	Y	N	Y	Y	Left				3
Jon Bastable	Y	N	Y	Left					2
Carli Colby	Y	Left							1

Finance Meetings Attendance		Total Finance meetings held in 2020/21 - Four		
	Nov 12 th 2020	March 16 th 2021	April 21 st 2021	June 24 th 2021
Elizabeth Bucknell	Y	Y	Y	Y
Neil Cook	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ian Nichol	Y	Y	Y	N
Paul Archer	n/a	Y	Y	Y
Olga Bibbings	Y	Left		

4. Training Attended

During the course of the year Governors attended a range of training courses in order to maintain or enhance their skills and knowledge. Information on this training is attach as Appendix A.

Assessment of effectiveness and impact.

The School Development Plan

The School Development Plan (SDP) is the key strategic document for the school setting out its aims and objectives and its key plans and priorities for development and improvement over a period of three years. The SDP is drafted based on evidence from a number of key source documents. These include the latest OFSTED report (having particular regard to the areas identified for improvement), data (internal data and the results of Key Stage testing for attainment and progress) and the School's Self Evaluation document. In addition, the SDP is informed by local and national policy developments and educational context and by parent and pupil voice. The Governing Board reviews the progress of the SDP each term, considering corrective actions and modification in the light of operating experience and formally reviews, revises and rolls forward the SDP at the start of each academic year.

Covid-19 Impact on the School

Whilst the school has been disrupted by closures and rearranging classes into bubbles due to Covid-19 teachers and staff worked tirelessly over the year to support pupils and parents who were at home and provided a very wide range of resources online. The school communicated regularly with parents and pupils and offered one to one support where it was needed. Particular attention was paid to the needs of vulnerable pupils.

Following a review by the Government of education provision for children, school opened in September 2020. This was made possible by the teachers and staff making significant changes to the operation and management of the school and the way in which teaching and learning took place.

The Governing Board have acknowledged and praised the efforts of the school leadership and staff in enabling the school to open in this way.

Pupil Progress and Attainment

Governors received regular reports on pupil progress and attainment for the nursery and both key stages and considered and challenged the data. Recovery plans have been put in place for children to catch up and we will watch carefully and consider all options to help children progress and achieve the goals set.

As things start to improve and governors can visit the school we will resume observations through learning walks, book looks, pupil voice, classroom visits and observing pupil progress meetings. SEND and Pupil Premium pupils are the focus of specific lead governors who report regularly to the Governing Board.

The school has a well-developed plan for the use of Pupil Premium funding to support the learning and development needs of eligible pupils. Progress is reviewed by the lead governor with the school's leadership and reported to the Governing Board.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Government's response to it, all KS1 and KS2 tests were cancelled and so it is not possible to report on progress and attainment for the end of the academic year.

School Site and Premises

Our health and safety and premises lead governor regularly visited the site with the School Business Manager and the Headteacher to review premises and health and safety issues, reporting the outcome to the Governing Board and Finance Committee. Over 2020/21 we have sought to ensure that the school is well maintained and have invested in new equipment within the limits of our budget. We are particularly pleased that we have been able to continue to improve the school grounds and the facilities for sport and exercise it offers, including securing with the help of FORS, the finance for the provision of new Multi-Use Games Area and for external improvements to the Early Years facilities

Value for Money

The Finance Committee has been effective in working with the Headteacher and School Business Manager to ensure that despite the financial challenge we face the school has achieved a robust budget situation with a reasonable surplus achieved in 2020/21. The committee has carefully scrutinised the budget and its management over the course of the year and undertakes every year a annual benchmarking exercises comparing our school to similar schools to inform decision making. Our effectiveness is reviewed through the annual completion of a Schools Financial Value Statement assessment process which is scrutinised by the local authority.

Safeguarding

The safety and welfare of pupils at Robert Sandilands is of the highest priority for the Governing Body. Mary Wearn is the Governor with lead responsibility for safeguarding and makes regular visits when restrictions allow to the school to ensure that processes are being followed and records are up to date. She reports on safeguarding to each Governing Board meeting. Where there are areas of concern, for instance persistent absence, the Governing Board monitors the situation and challenges performance. The Governing Board is also mindful of the need to continue to develop the school and its offer to pupils and parents. The school operates in accordance with the latest government documentation and has a clear Safeguarding Policy following the West Berkshire recommendations; this currently has an addendum that covers the COVID 19 situation.

During 18/19 we started a campaign to resolve safety concerns that we have about the road crossing to the school on Brummel Road. It was pleasing to report that in the Spring of 2020 the local authority agreed to include a zebra crossing for Brummel Road in their 2020/21 programme of works and the works are now completed, giving children and parents a much safer crossing to the school.

Academic Year 2021/22

Our ambition is that Robert Sandilands should be recognised as an outstanding school. The 2021/22 SDP will set out how over a three-year period we will consolidate and build on our current achievements and tackle the challenges we still face, whilst recognising the immediate issues and obstacles presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Appendix A**Training Completed****Libby Bucknell**

EYFS Changes	13 May 2021
Primary Heads Forum	13 May 2021
Real PE	29 Apr 2021
Primary Heads Forum	26 Feb 2021
Common Legal queries for School Training	9 Feb 2021
Confident Children	28 Jan 2021
Educator	30 Nov 2020
Microsoft Teams	30 Nov 2020
Pixie Documentation	24 Sep 2020
PurpleMash Blended Learning	24 Sep 2020

Helen Lewis

PPG Update	13 May 2021
Real PE	29 Apr 2021
Confident Children	28 Jan 2021
Microsoft Teams	30 Nov 2020
Pixie Documentation	24 Sep 2020

Ian Nichol

Prevent online Training	2 Jul 2021
Leadership Forum	1 Jul 2021
Leadership Forum	24 Feb 2021
Common Legal queries for School Training	9 Feb 2021
Prevent Online Training	14 Nov 2020
Universal Safeguarding Children Online Training Course	15 Feb 2020

Janet Rimmer

EYFS Changes	13 May 2021
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Mary Wearn

Safeguarding Network	1 Jul 2021
Universal Safeguarding Refresher	30 Nov 2020
Annual Safeguarding Audit Session	30 Nov 2020