



Robert Sandilands Primary School and Nursery Annual Statement of Effectiveness – Academic Year 2021/22

1. Introduction to the School and Governing Board

Robert Sandilands School is a one form entry all-through primary school and nursery with a catchment area in the north of Newbury. 2021/22 we also had the last year of a 'bulge' class which was created to provide for an increase in pupil numbers in the area some time ago. At the end of the 21/22 academic year we had 258 pupil on the school roll.

The school has a very strong commitment to 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 2021/22 the Governor Board met on seven occasions. However, from March 2020 onwards the Board has been meeting 'virtually' online due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 regulations and the risks associated with the pandemic.

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 2021/22 the Chair of the Governing Board was Ian Nichol, and the Vice Chair was Janet Rimmer.

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/2Kwq7vN>.

The governors normally use a range of means to communicate with parents but due to the restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic the most normal opportunities 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 2021/22 governors taking lead roles were:

	Key Areas of Responsibility	Curriculum Area Team (CAT)
Ian Nichol	Chair of Governing Board / Health and Safety / Premises Governor	Computing / Art & Design
Janet Rimmer	Vice-Chair of Governing Board, Development, EYFS, Teaching and Learning Governor	English
Paul Archer	Chair of Finance	Music and PE
Katy Patten	Equality / More Able Governor	History & Geography / Maths / RE
Alix Dickinson	Pupil Premium, Welfare and SEND Governor	Science / DT
Mary Wearn	Safeguarding Governor	PSHE / RSE

3. Attendance at meetings

Listed below are the attendance details for each Governing Board and committee meeting in 2021/22. During the year Mrs Lewis has been unable to attend Board meetings due to ill health but it is her intention to join the Board meetings from the start of the Autumn 2022 term.

NAME	FGB Meetings 2021/2022							
	Sept 15th	Nov 4th	Dec 16th	Feb 3rd	Mar 30th	May 19th	July 19th	Total Attended
Libby Bucknell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
Helen Lewis	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0
Ian Nichol	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
Janet Rimmer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
Mary Wearn	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
Katy Patten	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	6
Paul Archer	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
Alix Dickinson	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	4

Finance Meetings Attendance		Total Finance meetings held in 2021/22 - 3		
	Nov 9th 2021	March 17th 2021	June 23rd 2021	Total attended
Paul Archer	Y	Y	Y	3
Mary Wearn	N	Y	N	1
Ian Nichol	Y	Y	Y	3
Elizabeth Bucknell	Y	Y	Y	3

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 attached 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 formally reviewed, revised and rolled forward the SDP at the start of the 2021/22 academic year and reviewed the progress of the SDP each term, considering corrective actions and modifications in the light of operating experience. The large majority of the objectives and plans in the SDP had been achieved by the end of the year although a few were delayed due to the difficulties and challenges that Covid-19 brought with it.

Covid-19 Impact on the School

Following a very difficult year in 2020/21 arising from the school closures, restrictions and remote working the school opened fully in September 2021. Despite higher-than-normal levels of pupil and staff sickness the school has been able to continue to deliver teaching and learning as normally as possible during the year. The Governing Board have acknowledged and praised the efforts of the school leadership and staff in enabling the school to open and operate in these difficult times.

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 were put in place for children to catch up and we watch their education carefully and consider all options to help children progress and achieve the goals set.

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

The KS2 results were particularly gratifying this year given the challenging circumstances with our Yr6 pupils overall performing much better than their peers in other West Berkshire schools and nationally.

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 2021/22 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 complete and open the Multi-Use Games Area which was supported by donations and by FORs. In addition, the work on the EYFS canopy has been completed.

We also agreed, following consultation with parents, to re-purpose the classroom previously used to accommodate our 'bulge year' for the Pegasus before and after school club. We hope that parents will find this new facility helpful and that it will also be fun and enjoyable for the pupils that make use of it. Pegasus Club will open in September 2022.

Value for Money

The Finance Committee has been effective in working with the Headteacher and School Business Manager to ensure that despite the financial challenges we face the school has achieved a robust budget situation with a reasonable level of reserves held in 2021/22. The committee has carefully scrutinised the budget and its management over the course of the year and undertakes every year an 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. However, we recognise that this forthcoming academic year will be financially challenging given the unfunded increase in salary costs following the government announced pay award and given the increase in energy prices.

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 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.

Academic Year 2022/23

Our ambition is that Robert Sandilands should be recognised as an outstanding school. The 2022/23 School Development Plan 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.

Appendix A**Training Completed****Paul Archer**

Universal Safeguarding Children Online Training Course	4 Apr 2022
NCSC Cyber Security Training	10 Mar 2022

Libby Bucknell

Monster Phonics Level 1	19 May 2022
Senior Mental Health Leader Training (17th Jan, 14th Feb, 14th March)	14 Mar 2022
Designated Safeguarding Lead refresher	8 Mar 2022
Universal Safeguarding Training	5 Jan 2022
Therapeutic Thinking training (5 mornings)	24 Nov 2021

Alix Dickinson

Universal Safeguarding Training	3 Sep 2021
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Katie Lawrence

Universal Safeguarding Training	5 Jan 2022
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Ian Nichol

NCSC Cyber Security Training	11 Mar 2022
The Role of the SEND Governor (e-Learning) NGA	9 Feb 2022
Universal Safeguarding Children Online Training	17 Jan 2022

Katy Patten

Universal Safeguarding Children Online Training	5 Apr 2022
NCSC Cyber Security Training	25 Mar 2022

Janet Rimmer

NCSC Cyber Security Training	6 Apr 2022
Universal Safeguarding Children Training (e-Learning)	26 Jan 2022

Mary Wearn

NCSC Cyber Security Training	21 Mar 2022
Universal Safeguarding Training Online Course	23 Jan 2022
Safeguarding Network Meeting	1 July 2022