

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 20/21

Hillside Specialist School and College

Strategic Direction:

The Governing Body at Hillside Specialist School and College has persevered through the last couple of years of COVID by making changes ensuring that leadership of the school's clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction are steadfast.

Financial Performance:

Financial Performance has been ensured and budget reporting shows resources are effectively utilised. Guidance throughout the COVID Pandemic has been remote but effective.

Risk Management:

Future proofing is important to the GB and through collective collaboration, performance and improvement are focused upon. By holding the Headteacher to account we can ensure the educational performance of the school, its pupils and the effective performance management of staff is upheld.

Present Perspective



The last OFSTED Report in February 2018 stated that Hillside Specialist School and College was rated 'GOOD'. It is the Governing Body's responsibility to ensure that all statutory duties are met and the Leadership of HSSC is upheld. In Governance, standards must be met but as a body we try to consistently improve and push the boundaries.

The GB of HSSC consist of: The Chair, Four Co-Opted Governors, three Parent Governors, one Local Authority Governor, the Headteacher and two Staff Governors.

At the present time we have seven meetings per year. The GB Strategic Planning Meeting and the Half-Termly Meetings. GB Committees are as follows:

1. Appraisal (HT)
2. Pay



Leadership:

Headteacher & Leadership

Team - Roles are clearly defined and the HT & LT have worked successfully to implement systems for improvement. In quality of education, student progress and during COVID Safeguarding.

Clerk - The Clerk of HSSC GB is a very effective in her role and her skills are exemplary. Help and advice especially to new Governors is invaluable.

Chair - The Chair of the GB has a clear vision for HSSC and continues to have a positive impact on the GB and the LT.

Conflicts of Interest:

This is examined regularly, a register is kept and prior to all meetings it is confirmed in order to avoid any conflicts of interests.

GB Contact:

Please feel free to contact us. We look forward to suggestions, any feedback or if you wish for a more detailed explanation please do get in touch. Contact can be made with the Chair of the GB, Rachel Younger via Hillside Specialist School and College, Ribchester Road, Longridge, Preston, Lancs. PR3 3XB.

Telephone: 01772782205

email: hillside@hillside.lancs.sch.uk

The GB continue to support these committees as well as attend the Quarterly Meetings and often participate in activities and decision making supporting the LT at HSSC such as the hiring process of key teaching staff and approval of needed IT equipment.

What has helped greatly is that the LT of HSSC has an excellent understanding on the role the GB performs and the 'willingness to provide information in the most appropriate way in order that the GB can carry out its role.'

It is important for HSSC and the GB that their roles are clearly understood. The GB is Strategic and Management is Operational. The vision or strategy for the improvement of the school is discussed with the LT and they drive it forward. For instance recently HSSC won a bid for a Grant for a Decarbonisation Scheme for the value of £580k that 'should see savings in future years of circa £5000 in utility costs.'

Continuous professional development is important and Governors are encouraged and are provided with the proper training to update their knowledge in good practices in order to improve outcomes for pupils. As Governors we are expected to ensure our skills are of that caliber to be effective in governance. A Governor skills audit is administered and each Governor's record is kept up to date. Courses such as the 'Governor Safeguarding and Child Protection' was offered to Governors to ensure they understand the essential, key elements of safeguarding and their responsibilities as Governors.

COVID has had some positive and not so positive effects on the LT and the GB but overall it can be said that HSSC has weathered the storm reasonably well. Governor's meetings have been purely remote and in the case of not being able to physically be at HSSC in the past, Governors can now attend remotely. Also, the LT has reported that COVID highlighted certain inadequacies in IT equipment for both teachers and students and 'catch-up funding would allow them to reduce the 'digital divide' and provide 'basic digital skills' to HSSC students and much needed updated equipment for teachers.

In all, the improvements will continue and the GB and LT will research and continue to invest in their strategy and vision to consistently improve the standards at HSSC.