

External Review of Governance – February 27th – March 14th 2017

We welcomed a National Leader in Governance (NLG) for an external review from February 27th to March 14th 2017. The focus of the review was based on the three core strategic functions of Governance as set out in the DfE School Governors' Handbook:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The methodology included:

- Analysis of a wide range of documents including Ofsted reports; school website; Ofsted data dashboard; Parent view; minutes of various meetings; headteacher reports; skills audit.
- Meetings with Headteacher, Chair of Governors, Parent Governor, Staff Governor and 2 Foundation Governors.
- Meetings with teaching staff and support staff.
- Facilitation of a Governing Body self-evaluation session.
- Report and recommendations.
- A follow-up visit to review progress and impact.

Things the school needs to improve:

- The Governing Body should develop a forward plan of work (strategic plan) which identifies the main areas of focus for agendas, committee and full board meetings. As far as possible, ongoing cyclical governance work should be delegated, leaving more time at full board meetings for consideration of strategic and school improvement.
- The Governing Body should consider the workload of frequent meetings and other meeting methods.
- The Governing Body should appoint an external clerk to undertake the administration, maintain an overview of the work of committees and how they relate to the full board.
- The Governing Body should consider forming ties with other schools for validation and referencing.
- The Governing Body should continue to develop ways to better communicate with staff, parents, pupils and the local community.
- The Governing Body should embed and develop its best practice.