



The John Fisher School

Governors' Impact Report

2020 – 2021

1. Introduction

The Governing Board, the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team, together with all members of staff, are constantly working to improve and develop the school.

This level of commitment and expertise has demonstrated itself in the collective effort to support students, and their parents/carers, during a year of unprecedented challenge. Central to this has been the focus on the mental health and wellbeing of all members of the school community, whilst striving to continually improve outcomes for students.

2. Key Activities for the Governing Board during 2020 – 2021

This year has again been extremely challenging for staff and students, but nevertheless with significant progress achieved in many areas. Key activities for the Governing Board included:

Teaching and Learning:

1. Scrutiny and analysis of the GCSE and A Level results for 2020 based on the Centre Assessment Grades.
2. Reviewing the work of the Academic Curriculum Board, including the development of an updated curriculum design and the development of a whole school reading strategy.
3. Reviewing the plans for a new approach to assessment, based on whole class feedback.
4. Receiving presentations from the Subject Leaders of Modern Foreign Languages, Sport and Mathematics and discussing achievements, challenges and future plans.
5. Monitoring the work carried out to run Centre Controlled Tests as part of the work to arrive at Teacher Assessed Grades for Summer 2021 GCSEs and A Levels.
6. Reviewing plans and activities for the successful transition of students into Years 7 and 12.

Spiritual Life and Ethos:

1. Monitoring the development of the Wellbeing and Spiritual Garden and attending its formal opening and blessing by the Archbishop.
2. Participating in the half-termly meetings of the school's Spiritual Life and Ethos Committee.

COVID-19:

1. Working alongside the Headteacher to ensure provision for vulnerable and key workers' children during the period of lockdown.
2. Monitoring the safeguarding arrangements, both during lockdown and on the return to school, including the development of the Magdalen team.
3. Holding an Extraordinary Full Governing Board meeting in January 2021 to review and approve the plans for remote learning, safeguarding etc. during the period of school closure.
4. Monitoring the provision of IT equipment for students and staff to support remote learning.
5. Monitoring attendance, both during lockdown and on the return to school.
6. Reviewing the Remote Education Policy and its implementation during lockdown.
7. Reviewing the arrangements for a testing facility and the plan for testing students before the return to school.
8. Monitoring the continued impact on the budget of the Covid 19 pandemic and the plans for using the Covid Catch-Up Fund.
9. Reviewing and approving the decision to move to a new remote learning platform.
10. Attending review meetings conducted by the Local Authority into arrangements both during lockdown and on the return to school.

Support Activities:

1. Monitoring the implementation of the School Improvement Plan.
2. Attending update training on the September 2020 Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance.
3. Reviewing the new careers and Higher Education programmes.
4. Reviewing school policies and documentation, including the implementation of the new RHSE policy.
5. Overseeing the continued compliance in school with the General Data Protection Regulations.
6. Conducting an external review of governance, and carrying out a skills audit of Governors to advise training and succession planning.
7. Monitoring the initial discussions regarding the creation of a collaborative 'family' of Catholic schools in the local area.
8. Participating in the Student Representative Meetings which have discussed remote learning, catering, wellbeing and the Rights Respecting School Award.
9. Participating in training during Governors' Workshops including on PREVENT and on the findings of the Ofsted review of sexual abuse in schools.
10. Monitoring the school's progress in successfully achieving the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award, Bronze level.
11. Participating in the tender process to appoint a new IT provider, Classroom Technology Solutions (CTS).

Leadership and Staff:

1. Reviewing the plans for implementing the new Early Career Framework for Early Career Teachers.
2. Monitoring and supporting the work towards achieving the Optimus National Schools Mental Health and Wellbeing Accreditation.
3. Conducting an external review of the new SLT structure.

4. Monitoring staff and student wellbeing, and approving two new TLR appointments to oversee Wider Participation and Healthy Living, and Equality and Diversity.

Finance:

1. Budget setting and monitoring and review of school finances, including consideration of the deficit recovery plan.
2. Reviewing the reports of an independent accountant on the budget and reporting, controls and procedures, and purchasing, payroll and income.
3. Attending termly meetings with the Local Authority to monitor the budget.

SEN:

1. Reviewing the progress of the new Catherine Group to offer an alternative literacy and numeracy programme for Year 7 and 8 SEN students.
2. Monitoring the delivery of the wider SEN support programme.

Premises and Health & Safety:

1. Reviewing the IT and catering contracts and contributing to the decision to appoint.
2. Involvement in the SCA/LCVAP bidding process and oversight of significant building projects including the second phase of fitting new fire doors in the school, the replacement of the roof of the Old Gym and the final phase of replacing the Science block windows.
3. Applying for a grant to create three additional small rooms required for one-to-one SEN support etc.
4. The designated Health & Safety Governor was involved in the annual Health & Safety Inspection carried out by the Local Authority which reported significant progress since the last inspection.