



Governors' Annual Statement and Impact Report 2020-21

We would like to begin our annual statement by expressing our sincerest thanks to our families and our staff for the resilience, openness, and co-operation during what has been an unprecedented situation for the school and the nation as a whole. As a governing body we recognize the challenge that each family has met particularly as this has been yet another year and appreciate the engagement with school during this time.

In September we welcomed Pippa Irwin who took up the post of Headteacher here at Beverley. As the Governing body we witnessed Pippa and all of the staff, going over and above in minimising disruption and facilitating the continuation of learning and personal development. We are indebted to the whole community for the support that has been provided for all our pupils. The priority for the Governors was that children came back to school happy, healthy and safe and to minimize the disruption to children as much as possible, and we were pleased to see this take place in school.

At Beverley School, we are fortunate to have a governing body with varied expertise, a breadth of skills and relevant experience, to enable us to support our school community. All governors of Beverley School have an awareness and understanding of the nature of autism and how this can affect the children in our school, their immediate family, and their wider social circle. This year we have strengthened the Governing body with the appointment of two more governors. Within the next year we are examining the possibility of appointing additional parent-governors.

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Who We Are

Our photographs and pen portraits are displayed in school, so names can be put to faces.

Name	Governor Type
Helen Murphy	Chair (2014 to date) Parent Governor
Jill Fidan	Parent Governor Local Authority Governor
Nigel Perley	Staff Governor
Mary Nugent	Co-Opted Governor
Steve Wilks	Co-Opted Governor
Pippa Irwin	Headteacher
Jane May	Deputy Headteacher
Katy Hall	School Business Manager
John Lees	Vice Chair Co-opted Governor
Maria Bache	Co-opted Governor
Catherine Davidson	Co-opted Governor
Charlotte Fryett	Co-opted Governor

The Strategic Functions of a Governing Body

A governor role is a strategic one, sometimes referred to as “eyes on, hands off”. As such, the core functions are:

- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent (DfE 2014)

Beverley School governors, as well as the above accountabilities, carry out a wide range of specific responsibilities for the benefit of our children in school, including:

- Setting standards for pupils' behaviour and discipline
- Making sure school buildings are welcoming and safe
- Setting and monitoring the school's vision, aims and policies
- Attending governing body meetings and committee meetings
- The appointing and dismissing of staff
- Hearing appeals and grievances

- Ensuring a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum.

A key governor role is to ensure that the children at Beverley progress appropriately in their education and we appreciate that for this to happen, the children must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff all working together within a safe and engaging learning environment. As governors, we are committed to ensuring the school continues in its determination to achieve and maintain an outstanding provision for each pupil, making sure that they are given the opportunities and support needed to achieve their own potential. In Beverley School, the emphasis is upon individual progress achieved via a personal learning pathway and governors appreciate that parents and carers need to feel confident that the leadership of the school ensures that each child feels safe, happy and makes good progress whilst enjoying their learning. The school informs governors of the varied destinations of those young people who leave Beverley School at the end of their statutory education and there is a genuine interest in outcomes for our past students.

The Department for Education recognises the value that a strong, resilient governing body offers to a school and as such, has been raising the profile of governors nationally. The function of the school governor continues to evolve, and the expectations and commitment of the role are becoming more demanding but very rewarding.

Some matters the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team have worked together on:

Objectives	Tasks
To hold leaders to account for all aspects of school's performance	During meetings and monitoring visits governors challenge decisions made and how they will impact upon school
	Monitoring and support of progress on the annual school development plan
	Supported leaders during ever changing Covid regulations
To interrogate data presented and challenge accordingly. To ensure the needs of disadvantaged children are met.	Governors fully prepared for meetings using the literature provided and prepared questions to challenge data.
	Evaluation of the use of pupil premium and monitor the progress of both PP and LAC
	Assessment of the use of interventions and the impact on pupil progress
To ensure rigorous planning and controls are in place to ensure financial stability and effective use of financial resources	Monitoring the school budget during finance meetings
	Challenge and scrutiny during finance meetings
	Ensuring financial decisions have a positive impact on the progress and well-being of children through challenge in meetings and monitoring visits

To support the safeguarding procedures of the school at every opportunity and always act to promote the welfare of children.	Safeguarding governors conducted a review to ensure all procedures are being adhered to, staff suitably trained, and the single central register is up to date.
	Evaluation of the use of safeguarding recording software through school during meetings
	The Governing body maintained safeguarding regulations and the operation of the school

Challenge

“What difference is this going to make and how will we know” is a valid question which can be put to the headteacher and leadership team in most situations such as:

Challenge, when used in a constructive and objective way, can be stimulating, and thought provoking. The school leadership team welcome challenge and constructive criticism and see it as a positive route towards improvement.

The governors of Beverley School regularly challenge the Head Teacher and leadership team in a variety of situations. One effective way is by asking direct questions or presenting issues to the school via the headteacher’s report which is circulated to governors prior to the governing body meeting.

- Safeguarding, its implementation and how it is recorded
- Data challenges and pupil achievement and how interventions are
- Finance challenges include quotations for outdoor play equipment, monitoring of finance issues associated with the various local authorities that employ the school, to ensure timely allocation of funds.
- Continuing to monitor overall teaching and learning
- Conducting a stringent and fair recruitment process to appoint our new Head Teacher
- Involvement in recruitment of senior staff

This has been maintained despite the difficulties of ensuring continuity via online meetings

Future and continuous improvements and plans

We will continue to support the school in the following:

- Support the implementation of a new broad, balanced engaging and relevant curriculum which promotes a toolkit of skills to prepare our young people for life
- Ensure the mental health of pupils and staff remains a high priority
- Continuing to protect a high-quality learning environment and maintain positive relationships with our families and local community

- Support school with building work needed to protect and enhance the learning environment
- To continue to promote Governor accessibility for parents/staff
- Develop a Governor action plan in line with the school's development plan
- To access training for Governors to promote the skills required in the context of changing education.
- Ensure all pupils are safe in school and the locality
- Monitor and promote high levels of attendance
- Ensuring all students are accessing appropriate accreditation and able to reach his/her potential experiences

We will continue to promote high aspirations for the outcomes of all our children and young adults, undertaken in a positive and engaging environment.

The governing body of Beverley School is committed to continually evaluating the role we play within the life of the school and will circulate relevant information to all interested parties. This statement is part of that evaluation and notification process.

The Governing Body of Beverley School thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Helen Murphy (Chair)

On behalf of the governing body of Beverley School

July 2021