



GOVERNOR IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the 2024/25 academic year comes to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a fantastic year and to share some of the ways in which we, as governors, have been involved in the life of the school.

Governors are often described as “critical friends” to the school—offering support, challenge, and oversight to help ensure the very best outcomes for all children. Our role is to help steer the school’s strategic direction, ensure financial stability, and uphold the clarity of its ethos and vision. We are accountable to the entire school community, and in this statement, we aim to introduce who we are and outline how we have fulfilled our responsibilities over the past year.

The membership of the governing board

The WBIS Governing board is made up of 15 members, including staff, parents, and representatives from the wider community. Our primary role is to support and, where necessary, challenge the school’s leadership to ensure the best outcomes for all pupils.

Operational management of the school is led by Mrs. Cutts and Mr. Willis. As governors, we focus on providing strategic direction and leadership oversight to help guide the school’s long-term development.

We hold two full governing board meetings each term: one dedicated to strategic planning and the other to financial oversight. In addition, this year we have introduced termly meetings with members of the West Bridgford Junior School governing board, forming a Joint Collaboration Committee to strengthen partnership working between our schools and oversee the formal collaboration.

We receive administrative support, training, and professional clerking services through Nottinghamshire County Council’s Governor Services.

The current membership of the governing board is as follows:

Name	Role
Claire Hughes	Chair of Governing Board, Local Authority governor
Sarah Colston	Vice Chair of Governing Board, Parent governor
Zoe Gingele	Co-opted
James Willis	Executive Headteacher
Jatinder Hanspal	Co-opted
Gayle Cutts	Head of School, co-opted governor
Pamela Dinsdale	Co-opted governor (also a member of staff)
Liz Spink	Staff governor
Catherine Hammond	Co-opted

Rachel Ayrton	Co-opted
Steve Brooks	Co-opted
Jenny Stewart	Co-opted
Lauren Gimson	Parent governor

This year, we were pleased to welcome Mrs. Liz Spink to the Governing board as a Staff Governor, and Mr. James Willis as Executive Headteacher.

At the end of this term, we will be saying farewell to Zoe Gingele, who is stepping down after an exceptional ten years of service. During her time on the board, Zoe has held a variety of roles, including that of Vice Chair, and has consistently brought a wealth of experience, thoughtful insight, and unwavering dedication. Her deep understanding of education and long-standing connection to the school have made her an invaluable member of the Governing board, and she will be greatly missed.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Charlie Davis, who has completed his four-year term as Parent Governor. Charlie's contributions and support have been greatly appreciated, and we thank him for his time and commitment to the school community.

Vision, Values & Ethos

At the centre of our work as a board and the day to day life in school is a commitment to upholding the school's vision and values:

'Working together to ensure our children are safe, happy and healthy. Ready to learn, ready for life, ready to shine'

As a board we have several ways in which we monitor alignment with this statement:

- Our named Safeguarding Governor works closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead in school to complete the annual safeguarding checklist which is an extensive tool to help evaluate our compliance. We also perform regular checks on the Single Central Record and complete file checks.
- Our named Health & Safety Governor works closely with the Executive Headteacher and Site Manager to complete reviews of the school premises.
- As a board, we review and challenge all policies and procedures that are implemented across school.
- We visit the school regularly to see and hear from the staff and children.

Our Shine Brightly themes are a key part of school life and create a recognisable, age appropriate set of value statements for our children.

School Development

The School Improvement Plan [SIP] is a key document and progress is reviewed against milestones at all strategy meetings. The core priorities for our SIP this year were:

- To improve the provision of subject leadership across the school
- To further develop EYFS provision in order to meet the needs of all children
- To further develop SEND provision to meet the needs of all pupils
- To ensure effective leadership and management of the Infant and Junior School collaboration

These priorities are reviewed as part of the Headteacher's Report which we receive at termly strategy meetings. We invite Governors to review progress in the SIP objectives and any other area of interest in the report in advance of the meeting and to submit questions to Mr Willis. This allows more time for reflection and a broader range of responses. These questions and the responses are minuted.

For the 2025/26 academic year, the WBIS senior leadership team have met to discuss school specific priorities and they have also worked alongside the WBSJ team to establish suitable collaboration priorities.

Governor monitoring & evaluation

As a Governing board, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to access the school to undertake monitoring and observe the school in action on a regular basis. As a whole board, committees or as individuals we have undertaken the following over the year:

- Safeguarding Governor has completed annual checklist and file checks
- Health & Safety Governor has completed premises reviews
- Finance Governor scrutinises budget, financial decision making and supply costs
- SEND Governor meets frequently with SENCO
- Pay Committee meet to review Executive Head Teacher recommendations for pay reviews
- GDPR Governor has met with leadership team and DPO
- Appraisal governor involved to ensure Head of School appraisal is completed to the required standard
- WBIS board members of the JCC join WBSJ JCC board members and external advisor to complete Executive Headteacher appraisal
- Termly scrutiny of assessment data to ensure expected progress
- Termly update on Senior leadership team monitoring / observations
- Regular review of the School Evaluation Form [SEF] allowing us to consider our school performance against the Ofsted framework

- Governor attendance at school events

This year, governors have had the opportunity to visit the school on two more formal occasions. In the autumn term, we held our 'Talk Day,' which provided us with the chance to engage with pupils, staff, and subject leaders through focused discussions. In the summer term, we followed this with our 'Walk Day,' during which our attention turned to classroom visits and observing teaching and learning in action.

On both occasions, we were able to:

- Spend time in classrooms across all year groups, observing learning and speaking with both pupils and teachers; and
- Meet with small groups of staff to listen to their views and discuss matters relating to staff wellbeing.

These visits are a valuable part of our role, helping us to better understand the day-to-day experiences of the school community and ensuring our decisions remain well informed and rooted in the realities of school life.

To continuously improve, we access a training package from Nottinghamshire County Council which allows for development in a variety of areas including Safeguarding [all Governors must now regularly undertake this training], understanding data, staff & pupil wellbeing, performance management and how to support and challenge. All of our new Governors have accessed a comprehensive induction package.

Collaboration

Our statement last year focused on our hopes for the collaboration with West Bridgford Junior School and it's safe to say it has been a productive first year.

The Joint Collaboration Committee, made up of the Chair of Governors from each board, the Executive Headteacher and an additional member of the board from each school, has met termly to review progress against our collaboration specific school improvement priority, monitor Executive Headteacher wellbeing and latterly, to understand our next steps at the mid-point in our collaboration.

From shared events and activities for the children to joint leadership meetings and CPD for our staff, we've seen how all groups are embracing the collaboration and creating a wealth of opportunity for all. We're excited to continue the journey into the next academic year.

Looking to the future

As we reach the end of the academic year, it provides a natural moment for reflection—both on the many achievements of our children and the dedication of the entire school team, as well as an opportunity to focus on planning for the year ahead.

While school finances remain an area of close attention—particularly in the face of continued rising costs and ongoing uncertainty around funding—we are immensely grateful for the tireless efforts of our PTA, so ably led by Vicky and Amy. Their hard work in organising a wide range of events has not only brought great fun to the children but also provided valuable additional income to support the school. Our sincere thanks go to all of you who have supported these events and contributed to their success.

We are also fortunate to have such a committed and talented team of staff here at WBIS. During our visits, it has been a real privilege to witness the enthusiasm, politeness, and confidence of the children—qualities that shine through in every interaction.

On behalf of the Governing Body, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year, and we wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Kind regards

Claire Hughes

Chair of Governors