



## GOVERNOR IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the 2023/24 Academic year draws to a close, we would like to take this chance to share some of the ways in which we have been involved with the school over what has been a very busy and quite exceptional year.

Governors are often described as 'critical friends'; we support the school to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children in its care, while ensuring it remains financially sound and there is sufficient clarity in the school's ethos and vision. We are accountable to all school stakeholders and in this statement we will set out who we are and how we have carried out our responsibilities over the past year.

### **The membership of the governing body**

The WBIS Governing Body consists of 15 people made up of staff, parents, and members of the wider community. Our role is to support but also challenge school leadership. Ms Stevens is responsible for the operational management of the school and as governors we help provide strategic vision and leadership support.

We hold two meetings per term: one has a focus on Standards / Strategy, the other focuses on Finance. The full board meet at each of these meetings. This year we have also scheduled several additional meetings to prepare for Ofsted or discuss our upcoming collaboration with the West Bridgford Junior School [WBJS].

For the majority of the year, we accessed administrative support, training and clerking through Nottingham City Council's Governor Services but to allow greater support and consistency with our collaboration, have now switched to Nottinghamshire County Council Governor Services.

This year, we've welcomed Sarah Colston as a parent governor. After an incredible 30 years on the Governing Board, Liz Plant will be stepping down from her role at the end of this term. We would like to extend our thanks for her invaluable input during this time. With such extensive knowledge of education and specifically, our school, Liz has been an asset to the board and will be missed. Silvia Bordonni will also step down from her co-opted post at the end of this term and we would like to recognise her contribution and offer our thanks.

### **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'

July 2024

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 Head 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. They have been particularly important this year as we consider our priorities for the future.

### **School Development**

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

- Quality of Education - To further embed a rich language and reading for pleasure culture
- Quality of Education - To embed the use of high-quality questioning & feedback to support effective AfL [assessment for learning]
- Behaviour & Attitudes / Personal Development - To ensure our ethos and curriculum continues to reflect our whole school community and everyone feels they belong
- Outcomes for children - To review our provision and practice to ensure we meet the needs of our current increased cohort of children with SEND or additional needs
- Early Years Education - To embed / build on good practice and agreed approaches to quality EYFS provision
- Leadership & management - To maintain and further develop strong leadership at all levels

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

For the 2024/25 academic year, the WBIS SLT have met with James Willis to determine where our collaboration aims and purposes fit into our respective SDPs and what our school specific priorities should be.

## **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 and committee scrutinise budget, financial decision making and supply costs
- SEND Governor meets frequently with SENCo
- Pay Committee meet to review Head Teacher recommendations for pay reviews
- Appraisal Committee meet to ensure Head Teacher appraisal is completed to the required standard
- Termly scrutiny of assessment data to ensure expected progress
- Termly update on Senior leadership team monitoring / observations
- Governor involvement with Ofsted inspection [Governor interview and also school feedback session]
- Chair of Governor involvement in collaboration and associated SLT change process with Nottinghamshire County Council groups
- Governor attendance at the reading workshop evening
- Chair of Governors involved in appointment of new teaching staff and site manager recruitment process
- Governor and SLT led parent forum to discuss Collaboration with West Bridgford Junior School and changes to leadership team for 24/25 academic year

On Tuesday 9th July, 7 Governors attended Governor Day in school with an agenda which allowed us observe the following:

- Opportunity to spend time in classrooms across each year group to monitor independent learning and talk with children and teachers
- Opportunity to meet with groups of children to discuss their class floor books [which reference their topics and work undertaken over the year]
- Smaller intervention groups for: children with English as an additional language, reading and more complex special educational needs

In addition to this, the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors meet regularly to discuss any issues.

To continuously improve, as a Board, we access a training package from Nottingham City Council which allows for development in a variety of areas including Safeguarding [all Governors must now undertake this training], understanding data, finance in challenging times, staff & pupil wellbeing, performance management and how to support and challenge. All of our new Governors have accessed a comprehensive induction package and moving forward, our training will be delivered via Nottinghamshire County Council.

### **Ofsted**

Our much anticipated Ofsted inspection call came on Monday 20th November 2023 with the inspection taking place over Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd November. Having not been inspected for 13 years and under a very different framework, this was an event the school had prepared meticulously for. After two days in school with Inspectors talking extensively with staff, governors, children and parents, we were awarded 'Good' in all areas.

"West Bridgford Infant School is truly a place where 'bright ideas shine'."

We'd like to say thank you to all who responded to the Ofsted questionnaire to share their views of the school and to Ms Stevens and the whole staff team for tackling the inspection with such tenacity.

### **Looking to the future**

The end of the academic year allows time for reflection on all of the achievements of our children and the school team but it does also mean we are at the point of saying goodbye to several key people.

Mrs Watkins has been a much respected and loved member of our Yr2 team and we wish her the very best for her retirement.

Mr Sulley has managed to keep our over 100 year old building functioning all with a smile on his face and often dressed as Mr Incredible. We would like to extend our thanks for consistently going above and beyond to ensure our site remains the very best place it can be for the children.

And finally, Ms Stevens has been at the very heart of WBIS for 11 years and has ably guided the school through both the big and the day to day challenges associated with keeping 250, 4-7 year olds safe and happy. The children have remained at the very centre of every decision and her dedication to excellence for our school and community is unwavering. We know that she will be equally successful in her next venture but will be very sorely missed by us all.

Ms Stevens departure allows us to welcome new faces and some changes to the leadership team as part of our collaboration. Leadership teams from both schools have been in close contact over the last few months and our Joint Collaboration Committee, made up of Governors from both schools, have also met informally to prepare for September. We look forward to sharing further detail with you as we make progress.

Whilst finances continue to be an area we are closely monitoring as cost increases persist and funding is uncertain, we are very thankful for a dedicated PTA team who have run a series of events

that have been much loved by the children, enriching their school experience and generating income for the school. Thank you all for supporting the PTA and the school.

We are privileged to have the support of a dedicated team of staff at WBIS and are fortunate to have had the opportunity to witness firsthand how engaged, polite and confident the children are in all interactions we've had with them. They are a joy to be around. We would like to take the opportunity to thank them and you for your support over the year and wish you a restful Summer.

Kind regards

Claire Hughes

Chair of Governors