

# **Governing Body Report for the Academic Year 2017 – 2018**

## **Purpose of a Governing Body**

The 3 core strategic functions of the Governing Body of Steyning Grammar School are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

This is a requirement for all governing bodies.

## **Our structure**

Our Governing Body through the year had 16 Governors of whom:

- 4 were Foundation Governors (the vicar of Steyning and the Rector of Ashurst), a Diocese appointment and 2 from the Steyning Grammar School Foundation (Charity number: 307031)
- 7 Co-opted Governors
- 2 Parent Governors
- 1 Local Authority Representative
- 1 Staff Governor
- Head Teacher.

Due to the size and complexity of the school the Governing Body delegates part of its workload to a number of Committees.

These are:

- Boarding Committee
- Curriculum and Assessment Committee
- Business Committee
- Student & Staff Welfare and Development Committee

These Committees meet at least once a term and this is in addition to the 4 Full Governing Body meetings held each academic year.

Each Head of Faculty has a Link Governor who reports in to the Curriculum and Assessment Committee.

There are also Governors with specific remits who act on behalf of the Governing Body, and who report into either a Committee or the Full Governing Body on the following:

Safeguarding and Child Protection,  
Special Educational Needs and Inclusion  
Collective Worship and Chaplaincy  
Pupil Premium  
Health & Safety  
Governor Training  
School Council

Governors' attendance at meetings this year has been very good. Full details of individual governor's attendance can be found on the school website in the 'Governors' section. On the website you can also see our Register of Business Interests. Our Governing Body has adopted a code of conduct which reflects the individual governor's role and the behaviours that are expected.

Steyning Grammar School Foundation Trust was set up when the school was founded in 1614 and owns the land upon which most of school buildings are situated.

### **Academic Year 2017 – 2018**

As always this has been a very busy year for the school and the Governing Body. It is a time of extreme pressure for the school, with the crippling financial challenges, the difficulties being faced following curriculum changes, introduction of new student assessment processes together with linear exams, and the pressure this is putting on both staff and student wellbeing.

The majority of the work of committees focuses on the School Development Plan which identifies the priorities for the school and actions needed to achieve them. To ensure that the Governing Body has adequate skills to monitor this effectively there is an individualised training program for each Governor depending upon

the role they undertake. As a group the Governing Body has sufficient skills to fulfil its purpose.

Monitoring our pupils' progress data is at the heart of what we do, and is a particular focus of the **Curriculum & Assessment Committee**. Not only does the Committee scrutinise public examination results but also the current in year progress of each year group through the Key Stages, and progress within each Faculty. Another focus for this year has been to ensure parity of curriculum provision between Church Street and the new Key Stage 3 site at Rock Road.

**The Business Committee** has worked very closely with the Leadership Team to ensure that public money is used effectively and in such a challenging financial climate prudent steps are being taken to anticipate future financial pressures. Steyning Grammar School runs three budgets; School, Boarding and Catering, and the Business Committee spends time monitoring each of these. Health & Safety is delegated to this Committee and to a designated Health & Safety Governor. Continued focus remains on the national funding formula, admission numbers, and sixth form retention. Work to replace all huts at Shooting Field is expected to commence in 2019.

**The Boarding Committee** continues to monitor boarders progress, both academically and personally, and is awaiting the next Ofsted judgement. The role of the Boarding Committee involves additional monitoring and supervision of progress on boarders' health, education and emotional social and psychological wellbeing. Compliance with the National Minimum Standards is reviewed regularly and robustly by the Committee. There is a continued focus on promoting the school's boarding facilities both nationally and internationally, and ensuring the boarders' voices are heard. Boarding caters for up to 127 students who board in one of 4 houses near the Church Street site in Steyning. Governors regularly attend functions at the Boarding House. Committee members continue to work alongside members of the Business Committee to secure the school's ownership of two cottages that sit in the middle of our Church Street site and have been used by school staff over many years. We feel that it would be a disadvantage from a safeguarding point of view if WSCC sold these into public hands. This work is on-going.

**The Student & Staff Welfare and Development Committee** has continued to monitor the Leadership Team's work on the well-being of our students and staff. In addition, it has also looked at the professional development of the staff and students. The Committee links into the school council work for Pupil voice and Friends of Steyning Grammar school for parent voice. Equalities, student passports, staff workload, mental health issues, and safeguarding are also looked at in this Committee. The attendance data continues to be a focus, along with staff workloads.

The Governing Body also has a **Pay Panel Committee** which meets when necessary to look at overall staff appraisal within the school and to ensure that it is implemented rigorously and fairly.

The school accessed the Priority Schools Building Programme to remove a number of very old and somewhat dilapidated hatted classrooms at Shooting Field. It is still hoped this work will commence in the summer of 2019. Repair work to our Church Street site has been completed, and the new build at Rock Road has proved a great success in providing additional facilities and classrooms.

Governors review and agree key school policies. Most of these policies are published on the school website and a review programme is currently being finalised.

With the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation in May, governors have supported the school in ensuring compliance with the new data protection legislation whilst ensuring that governors also only work in a secure manner when performing their duties.

At the end of the last academic year, one of the school's two Deputy Headteachers, Dom Kenrick, successfully applied for his first Headship. Governors were then delighted to appoint Noel Kennedy as his successor. Noel joined us in September and has already proven to be an asset to the school.

The Governing Body continue to focus on the Ofsted trails from last year's inspection, with a particular focus on pupil attendance in all Key Stages and ensuring quality of education in all Faculties.

If you have any queries regarding this report or the Governing Body, the school governors can be contacted through our clerk, Mrs Nadia Goodman at [governorsclerk@sgs.uk.net](mailto:governorsclerk@sgs.uk.net)