

Annual Governance Statement for the  
Governing Board of The Whitby High School  
October 2017



At The Whitby High School we aim to provide the best possible educational experience for all through excellent teaching, positive and supportive relationships, a personalised and enriched curriculum, high aspirations and strong partnerships.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the Governing Board of The Whitby High School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The role of the Governing Board of The Whitby High School is to advise, support and challenge the school in order to deliver outstanding education. We will do this by:-

1. Contributing to a structured involvement in school Governance
2. Listening, challenging and feeding back across all aspects of school life
3. Keeping informed on local and national education issues and using and improving our skillset and strengths to support continuous school improvement.
4. Being accountable to each other and to our Parents, Community, the Local Authority, Students and School for our actions.
5. At all times being a critical friend.

Governance arrangements	<p>The Governing Board of The Whitby High School is made up of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Parent governors;</li> <li>• 1 Headteacher;</li> <li>• 1 Local Authority governor</li> <li>• 1 Staff governor</li> <li>• 7 Co-opted governors.</li> <li>• 2 partnership governors</li> </ul> <p>Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. The term of office for our Governors is four years.</p> <p>Partnership governors are nominated by parents of registered pupils at the school and such others in the community that are served by the school for example, staff, community organisations and other local bodies. The Governing Board select the partnership who they believe have the skills needed to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.</p>
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	<p>There is one vacancy for a Partnership Governor.</p> <p>The full Governing Board is jointly chaired by Cllr Angela Claydon and Mrs Carole Hibbert and meets once per term, and there are a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. The full governing board has delegated authority to each committee to plan and make decisions in line with their terms of reference. Both the terms of reference and any decisions are ratified at the full governing body.</p> <p>The committees that meet termly are Leadership &amp; Management and Student Learning &amp; Wellbeing.</p> <p>A full list of Governors is on the school website.</p>
Attendance record of governors	Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and a meeting has never been cancelled because it was not “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). See our website for details of individual governors’ attendance at meetings.
Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body	<p>The Leadership and Management Committee work with the Business Manager to oversee the school premises and delivered the refurbishment of the sixth form in Summer 2017. The committee continues to progress the new build and on-going refurbishment of the school to meet the future needs of the students and staff. The committee has overviewed staffing to ensure that the appropriate standards in teaching and learning are met. In times of reducing income the budget is always something that the Committee has to be mindful of. There are financial pressures and changes to pensions and the introduction of the Apprentice Levy are challenges that are faced by the committee.</p> <p>The Student Learning and Wellbeing Committee works with the Senior Leadership team to promote the learning and well-being of everybody in the school. The Committee has updated and reviewed policies that relate to Learning and Wellbeing. It has worked with the school on the restructuring of the learning support department and supported the school in the changes to the year 9 curriculum. Time has been spent considering and discussing student attainment, achievement and behaviour and future plans to improve the learning and wellbeing of all students. Pupil discipline is thoroughly discussed at each meeting. The attainment gap for Pupil Premium Students has been a focus for the committee.</p>
Assessment of Impact	Governors have a greater understanding of the strategic role that they play in leading and managing the school. Minutes reflect the high level of challenge that Governors provide in questioning the Headteacher about actions that are taken by the school to raise standards, keep children safe and comply with statutory duties.
Future plans for the Governing	The Governing Board is looking forward to continuing to make sure the school achieves the best possible outcomes for the students. We will continue to work closely with the Headteacher and staff to ensure that

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Body	teaching is of the highest quality and that all pupils are given every opportunity to make progress in their learning in line with local and national targets. We will review the school's performance and continue to provide both challenge and support to the Headteacher in respect of the school development plan. We will attend school on a regular basis and will continue to monitor the school budget and its future financial plans
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. Please contact the Joint Chair of Governors, Cllr Angela Claydon or Mrs Carole Hibbert, via Nigel Saunders, Clerk to the Governing Body.

Approved by Full Governing Body:

7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Signed: Chair of Governors

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