



**GATEWAY**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**Lifelong love of learning**

**Headteacher: Kayleigh Anstee**  
**Chair of Governors: Kevin Moyes**

# Governor Annual Community Report

To: All members of the community  
From: Governing Board  
Date: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022



## Introduction

As part of our commitment to openness and transparency, we have prepared a 2022 report about Governance at Gateway Primary School; we hope that you will find this summary both informative and interesting as parents and members of the wider community.

We have this year as with previous years, faced challenges some still linked to the impact of COVID-19 on our pupils, and it is during these times that our school values have come into their own. Together with a terrific team effort between staff, parents/carers, governors and not least, the children, the school have been resilient as a community and continued to go from strength to strength with well-founded aspirations for the future.

## School Improvement/Development

This year our school has made rapid school improvement and has now been rated by the Local Authority School Improvement Team, School Leaders, and Governors as 'Good' according to the Ofsted criteria, so much so that the formal LA School Improvement support will cease in September 2022.

We have continued to see the impact of all the hard work in creating such a positive reputation with the school community as a school which is truly inclusive, providing a good quality of education, great experiences for our pupils and excellent pastoral care and SEND provisions - as evidenced through continued increases to our pupil numbers which in September will be at 256 – the highest for many years.

This year work has continued to strengthen our assessment process, moderation and provision of a rich and broad curriculum, as well as investments in staff CPD, strengthening school leadership, governors and staff vision of what good at Gateway looks like. The amazing progress in the school has been evidenced through Governor's learning walks and other monitoring as well as external LA validation.

The behaviour of the pupils in the school has also been excellent with a clear pride and focus on their learning and pupils telling governors how much they love their school and that there is not anything they would change. Attendance has also been strong this year sitting above the Local Authority and national average which makes a real difference to the progress our pupils make. Despite the impact of COVID-19, leaders and staff in school have worked incredibly hard to continue the school improvement journey and testament to this are the recent Phonics and SATs results which are inline with national results and the first time we have achieved at this level since before 2017. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and professional team at our school.



It has also been lovely this term to see significant enhancements in school for the pupils such as the investment in the play equipment (which pupils fed back to leaders and Governors that they really wanted) as well as the building work in the EYFS unit which has created an open, light, and engaging learning environment for our pupils. It has also been positive to see that school trips have resumed this year (and the clear enjoyment of the pupils in the photos) as well as visits to the RAF base and other school trips which all help to increase pupil independence and provide a rich learning experience.

## **Governors**

Governors at Gateway School provide strategic leadership and accountability. Amongst many other things, we hold the primary responsibility for the outcomes for the pupils and areas such as finance, where we work with Mrs Anstee to make the right decisions for the pupils. Each governor is a Governing Board member, which is established in law as a corporate body. We cannot act independently; decisions are the joint responsibility of the Governing Board, and it should be remembered that both Headteacher and one staff member are also governors. For details of your school governors, the work we do and all non-confidential governor documents, please visit the [governor section](#) of the school website.

The role of the Governing Board is a strategic one; its key functions are to:

- Set the aims and objectives for the school.
- Set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives.
- Monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards the achievement of its aims and objectives.
- Be a source of challenge and support to the Headteacher, as a critical friend.

This year the Governing Board has met 10 times and in addition to attending various events have undertaken 33 monitoring activities including in school visits to monitor areas such as safeguarding, inclusion, health and safety and teaching and learning. In addition, the Governing Board had oversight of the monitoring reports from external visits, including the Local Authority School Improvement Team (including full school reviews and safeguarding audits). These monitoring visits enabled insightful reports to be produced, thereby enabling the full Governing Board to hold the Headteacher and the leadership team to account for the achievement of our School Development Plan and pupil's progress.

There are two key documents which help guide the governors in holding the school leadership team to account for school improvement. These are the school Self-Evaluation Form (SEF), which defines the current state of the school in terms of strengths and areas for improvement according to the Ofsted headings; and the school Development Plan, which sets out the actions to be taken to ensure that these areas for improvements are tackled. The Headteacher prepares both documents, which are scrutinised, and agreed upon by the governors based on their knowledge of the school and then used as the yardstick by which the leadership can be held to account. These are living documents and so updated frequently as the context in the school evolves coming to the Full Governing Board each time for discussion and approval. Several techniques are deployed to ensure accountability, and these include challenging/holding to account the Headteacher and leaders at governor meetings, conducting governor monitoring visits of the school when teachers and pupils can be questioned, and Children's work seen to gather evidence that objectives in the school development plan are being met.



The areas that governors have been focusing on are varied and numerous, but our 2021-22 School Development Plan targets (which governors have held the school leadership team to account for) were:

- Improve the quality of leadership, management, and Governance.
- Implement the new whole-school curriculum effectively.
- Improve the use of whole-school assessment.

In addition, governors had the following 2021-22 objectives:

- Ensure Governance is impactful, robust, and sustainable.
- Ensure the Full Governing Board contributes towards rapid school improvement.
- Improve community engagement and ensure the community are aware of the work of governors.
- Promote and grow our school.

These are essential and worthy matters, but the governors must also consider practical affairs that underpins the school's activities. This includes finance. We faced the year with a challenging financial position. However, with prudent management by the leadership team and Mrs Lock, our School Business Manager, and strong oversight by governors, we have been able to ensure money is spent on the areas needed to positively impact our pupils whilst at the same time balancing the budget over the agreed LA budget period. This achievement is a tribute to the efforts of the whole school community. However, the key to our future success in improving our budget will be to continue to increase pupil numbers. The leadership team and governors will have a concerted effort to publicise and promote our school, including the promotional video available on our website. We would also ask you to help with this endeavour.

In our last meeting of the school year governors conducted a self-review of the effectiveness of Governance at Gateway School. This review showed that we have met our statutory and best practice governor responsibilities and that we are an effective governing board which can demonstrate that we hold the school leadership team to account in a challenging but supportive way, which has had a direct impact on school improvement.



### **Looking to the future**

The Governing Board and school leaders have a clear vision, strategy and high ambitions for our school as well as a robust plan for big achievements in 2022-23. Our school improvement strategy takes a holistic approach recognising that it is a combination of quality of teaching, inspiring curriculum, accurate assessment of pupil progress, reflective learning by children, professional development of teaching staff, and effective leadership by the Headteacher and senior staff that will achieve our aspirations. In short, our vision is that we are to be a 'learning school' where all members of our community seek opportunities to learn and improve, whatever our level of experience and expertise, to never rest on our laurels.

Next year, in addition to the School Development Objectives, statutory and best practice governance areas, governors will be focussed on the following areas with the highlighted point being a key priority:

- Ensure Governance is impactful, robust, and sustainable. (With a focus on succession planning)
- Ensure the Full Governing Board contributes towards rapid school improvement.
- Improve community engagement and ensure the community are aware of the work of governors. (With a focus on reviewing and setting the school vision, ethos, and values with the whole school community)
- Promote and grow our school

### **Conclusion**

The Governing Board of Gateway Primary School has fulfilled all its statutory and best practice duties, despite the challenges. The Governing Board has made excellent progress in overseeing the school development plan's implementation and has vigorously held the school leadership team to account to achieve rapid improvement for the children we serve. Governance at the school continues to be robust and will continue to strengthen next year. As the Chair of Governors, it has been a real privilege to lead the work of Governors this year in a school that is a unique and special place; it is a joy to work with such an energetic set of teachers, parents, children, and a matter of great fulfilment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish our year six pupils the best of luck in their new schools, and we hope they will keep in touch and let us know how they are getting on.

We do have a parent governor vacancy and co-opted Governor vacancies on the Full Governing board, and if you would like to learn more or apply for the parent position, then you can find out more [here](#) or email me: [kmoyses@gateway.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:kmoyses@gateway.oxon.sch.uk) Please also share the Co-Opted vacancy with your networks.

I hope you all have a lovely summer, and we look forward to seeing you all in September!

Best wishes,



**Kevin Moyes**  
**Chair of Governors**

