**Lawley Primary School**

**Governor’s annual impact statement 2023/24**

**‘Planting the seeds, growing the future’.**

**Introduction and overview**

This impact statement has been written to provide an overview of the role the Governing Body has in school leadership and the impact that has had on school improvement throughout the 2023/2024 academic year. The governing body is made up of a group of volunteers who invest a significant amount of time and work to improve the school experience and education for every child at school. Governors work with and support the Headteacher and Senior Leadership team (SLT) to shape the strategic direction of the school.

The governing body at Lawley Primary School has three core functions:

* Setting the strategic direction of the school
* Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
* Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensure resources are well spent.

There has been a minimal amount of change in the membership of the governing board through the academic year. The board was happy to welcome back an experienced previous governor and also recruit a new member. A formal induction programme for new governors has been developed to provide the appropriate welcome to life as a governor at Lawley Primary and equip them with the necessary training to fulfil the role.

More information about the governing body is available [here](http://lawleyprimary.co.uk/governors/the-governing-body). If you wish to contact the governors, this is done via emailing or passing a letter to school reception.

**The impact of the governing board**

Governors work closely with the Headteacher and SLT in monitoring the School Development Plan (SDP). This document underpins a number of the strategic aims set for the school in the academic year. It is based on priorities identified from school data, national data (including any priorities from the Department for Education/Ofsted) and recommendations from our local School Improvement Partner. The SDP identifies the development priorities, how each aspect of the plan will be implemented and a clear description of the success criteria.

Governors attend two full governing body (FGB) meetings per term. These meetings are the main method for the Headteacher to share information and updates on a number of areas on school news, performance, and progress. Governors are provided with a number of inputs before the meetings which means they can be reviewed thoroughly in advance and used to ask pertinent questions, challenge where necessary and also provide support. Governors also share any visit reports they have done in school or any work they have done with teaching staff in school. These insights also can help to support or challenge the school in terms of the SDP.

Each governor has a role as a link governor. The links are to the main areas of the School Development Plan - English and Maths, Attendance, Early Years, SEND, Pupil Premium, Children in Care, Sports Premium, Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Prevent, Filtering and Monitoring, School Website and Mental Health, Workload and Staff Wellbeing. Each term there is a Link Governor week, where governors meet their school counterparts for that particular area to discuss the current plans that are in place, how school is meeting them, and what else can be done. The governors then feed this information back to the full board at the next meeting. This ensures that the whole Governing Board has an insight into all areas of the SDP, and that for each section there is a representative who understands that area in more depth.

All governors have and continue to undergo significant training. The impact of this is that they are kept up to date with the latest requirements and expectations and can therefore ensure school are also keeping up to date with these requirements. This year governors have attended training on safeguarding, child protection, Ofsted, SEND and Prevent, attendance and exclusions, school finances, and filtering and monitoring. The SEND and Pupil Premium Link governor has attended a number of additional training courses that relate to that area.

At the very start of the academic year, Ofsted announced they would be inspecting the school. The governors were part of that inspection, meeting with the lead inspector to talk him through governance at the school and the impact the Board has on the outcomes for the students.

The governors have developed a strong working relationship with our external School Improvement Partner (SIP). Her role is to work with school to identify areas for development that form the basis of the SDP, and then periodically review them through the year and report back to the Board. In Spring term, the Chair of the Board attended a meeting in school run by the SIP where she talked to a group of students about reading in school. She was wowed by their answers and saw extracts of their work, and this helped to solidify to her and the Chair the work that had been done in fostering a love of reading in school.

The Health & Safety Link Governor conducted a walk around school with the pupil Safeguarding team. The governor was amazed at how much the children were aware of the surroundings, and took away a list of queries to look into. This will become a regular occurrence in school going forwards.

One of the core functions of the governing body is to oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure resources are well spent. School budgets are examined in detail at the governors meetings, and governors use both local and national benchmarking data to examine the budget and challenge around costs where necessary. Governors also work with school to ensure best value practices are in place through school procurement policies such as ensuring three quotes are provided for any items or services over a designated amount. By scrutinising the quotes for work like this, governors can be satisfied that the school receives good value for money and also is using resources to benefit all students. This year governors agreed to the funding of a new school minibus, enabling more children to attend tournaments and events away from school.

Governors also monitor how funding for dedicated groups of pupils is spent. At the beginning of the academic year, one of our governors worked with the Headteacher to produce a pupil premium strategy statement, which outlined the amount of Pupil Premium Funding (PPF) that would be available for the year, the intended outcomes of this funding, how it would be spent to achieve those outcomes and defined success criteria. This is then reviewed through the year using information to examine whether the measures put in place for those children is resulting in their improved attainment.

Governors review and approve all school policies annually. These are done throughout the year during FGB meetings. Governors have been able to ensure that policies have been put into practice during their visits into school, which are then documented and shared back with the rest of the governing body. Some of the policies reviewed by the governors this year include:

* Admissions
* Code of Conduct
* Health and Safety
* Uniform
* Lettings

More information on school policies can be found on the school website: <http://lawleyprimary.co.uk/parents-carers/policies>

There is a member of the governing body who has completed ‘safer recruitment’ training and has worked with the SLT in assessing, interviewing and recruiting new staff. Being part of the recruitment process means governors can assure themselves that school are putting the appropriate policies in place when it comes to recruitment, and also have a view around which staff will be the best fit for the school, and so who will benefit the children most significantly.

Keeping up to date with current safeguarding recommendations and best practice is a key priority for all governors. All members of the governing board attend detailed safeguarding training. The Headteacher produces an annual safeguarding audit which the governing body can use to ensure the processes and practises within school are robust. There is a link governor who works with school specifically around safeguarding, but all governors have a strong knowledge of their responsibilities. School visits are one way in which governors can ensure that the safeguarding culture is firmly embedded throughout the school.

Our governing body has strong links with the school PTFA and is keen to create these links across the local community too. For the past three years there has been a local Christmas Smile donation point in school, which enables people from all over Lawley to donate to charity, but it also helps the children within school learn about their wider community and what they can do to participate. School also supports Telford Crisis Support through donations at Harvest festival, and members of the charity have visited school to talk to the children about what they do.

**Overview of the year**

Staff have been delighted to be able to take children back out on school trips again this year. These have included Arthog, Think Tank, cinema trips, Long Mountain, Wonderland, the Exotic and Stokes Barn.. School is committed to ensuring that all children have access to these trips, including taking SEND children to the site in advance so it is familiar to them.

A group of people sitting on grass

Description automatically generated 

The children have had numerous visitors come into school to talk about a range of subjects including authors and the emergency services. They have learned about Black History month and the ancient Egyptians.

A group of children standing in a line

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The children supported a number of initiatives, charities and special days including Children In Need and World Mental Health Day. They also collected an enormous donation of food at Harvest time for Telford Crisis Support.

A group of children in a classroom

Description automatically generated A collage of people in a classroom

Description automatically generated A collage of food items

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Parents have enjoyed Christmas performances this year, and also Rocksteady performances throughout the year. Year 5 parents were able to see their children perform at Young Voices in Birmingham which was once again a fantastic evening.

A group of people in a room

Description automatically generated A group of children sitting in a church

Description automatically generated A group of children in a church

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Students have once again excelled in a number of team sports competitions, both representing Lawley Primary and other teams outside of school. We have children who have also been successful individually in a range of different sports and hobbies.

The Governing Board would like to thank all staff, pupils and their families for their hard work and support over the last 12 months, and we look forward to working together in 2024/2025.

The Lawley Primary School Governing Board.