



## **Governing Body**

### **Terms of Reference of Strategic Leadership Group**

The Strategic Leadership Group exists to drive the work of the two committees, the Resources Committee and the Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee and as a consequence the strategic direction of the school and governing body. The membership of this group is the Headteacher, the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors and the chairs of the two committees. In addition, other members of the school's senior leadership team may join this group for specific items or discussions. It is important to remember that this is a group, not a committee. It will have no power to act on behalf of the governing body as a committee with delegated powers would. The purpose of this group is through discussion with the managers of the school, to identify what is operational management and what is strategic governance and from there to agree on the work of the two committees. This will give the chairs of the two committees' clear guidance on what their committees are expected to achieve.

The strategic leadership group may identify specific pieces of evaluative work that it wants governors to undertake and ask the two committees to nominate governors to undertake these tasks. They will not form a committee, but they will report back to the governing body the results of their work. These are tasks and finish groups with specific remits using the skills of individual governors. This can be an effective way to empower governors and enhance the sense they get of making a contribution to strategic governance.

#### **Strategic Leadership Group**

**Aim: To work closely with the senior managers of the school to develop a strategy leading to school improvement.**

The suggested membership of this group is the Chair of Governors, the Headteacher and the Chair of each of the two Committees. These key governors would have a more strategic and coordinating role and can add greatly to the effectiveness of the work of the Governing Body as a whole.

It is intended that the group can more effectively determine:

- Management or operational issues that will inform the work of the school's Senior Leadership Team.
- Strategic issues that will inform the work/agendas of the two committees and ultimately the full governing body.

**The terms of reference give an indication of this broader perspective.**

**If the Governing Body decides not to have this group, it is suggested that these terms of reference are of such importance they should be transferred to the Governing Body.**

**Terms of reference:**

The group will meet at least termly at the school with the Headteacher and members of the senior leadership team:

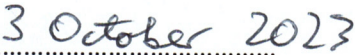
- To agree, by early in the autumn term, the programme of work and to propose a calendar of meetings for the Governing Body and its committees for the school year, based on known cycles of school improvement, financial management, staffing issues and communicating with parents
- To oversee arrangements for Governor involvement in formulating and monitoring the School Development Plan
- To agree on the involvement of the Governing Body when considering the policy review schedule
- To make recommendations to the Governing Body to establish exceptional working arrangements (“Working Parties”) where particular circumstances arise, e.g. a working party to oversee a building project
- To be available and respond to matters of particular difficulty, sensitivity or emergency and offer advice to the Headteacher
- To carry out an annual review of the structure of the Governing Body and make recommendations for any changes considering any recommendations made by committees with regard to the working of the Governing Body
- To monitor the progress of work being undertaken by committees and individuals, undertaking an annual governor capacity and skills audit.
- To identify individual governor and full governing body development needs and promote appropriate training, support and development to maximise governing body effectiveness and succession planning
- To undertake tasks delegated to them by the Governing Body

**Quorum – Whilst this is not a committee and does not, therefore, have formal minutes or quorum requirements it is recommended that a minimum of 2 people are in attendance who are not employed at the school. (The group can determine higher number)**

**Review:**

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually at the Autumn Term Meetings.

Signed .....  .....Chair of Governors

Date .....  .....