

Garstang Community Primary School

VAF (Vision, Accountability & Finance) 9 Final

The role of the Governing Body and the way forward.

September 2022 – September 2023

This document has been prepared following an extra meeting of the Governing Body on 28.09.22. It charts the progress of the Governing Body in relation to its three core functions. The final 'outcome' column is intended to be completed throughout the year. [Evaluation]

- This VAF document sits alongside the GCPS spreadsheets which ensure all documents and policies are reviewed at appropriate intervals. Maintenance of individual spreadsheets is delegated to relevant committees. The whole document is available on the school one drive.
- The VAF is included as an item on all committee meetings. The chair of that meeting can then document any outcomes, which will be presented at the main Governing Body meeting.
- Committee Chairs may note any actions for inclusion in 2022/23.
- The Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body will maintain an overview and ensure all areas are covered.

Mission statement

At Garstang Community Primary School we treasure each and every one of our pupils. We create inspirational learning opportunities in a vibrant, supportive environment in which our pupils grow together and are excited about their future in an ever changing world.

School Improvement Priorities

1. Continue to develop writing within school to maintain and boost writing scores across the year groups.
2. To ensure an outstanding curriculum that is tailored to pupils at Garstang Community Primary School.
3. Develop a strong partnership with parents and the wider community, creating an atmosphere of mutual trust, to provide the very best outcomes for our pupils.
4. Ensure staff and pupils are well supported in maintaining good mental health and wellbeing.

(VAF) THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNING BODY AT GARSTANG COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL 2022-2023. (V)				
Core Function 1: ensure clarity of <i>vision</i>, ethos and strategic direction				
Area to develop	Committee	Objective	Actions	Impact
Governing body [Strategic leadership] [People]	FULL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth transition to new chair and vice-chair • Equip all governors to discharge their role confidently and effectively • Fill all vacancies on governing body in a timely manner, looking to maintain breadth of skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Visits course (2nd Nov 2022) • Mentoring of chair and vice-chair (previous chairs/vice-chairs still on GB) • Skills audit • Proactive approaches to members of the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morale boost gives governors confidence and encouragement to visit – governors are better informed • New (but very experienced) governor Megan Wilcox
Setting and communicating ethos [Strategic leadership]	FULL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission statement reviewed • School expectations updated, well communicated and owned by whole school community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School council checking and rewording expectations (supported by nominated governor MB) 	
Staffing (includes SIP 4) [Strategic leadership] [People]	FULL F&R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff well supported in maintaining good mental health and wellbeing • Effective performance management of staff • Recruitment and deployment of staff is sustainable, makes best use of available human and financial resources, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated governor SB • Bought in supervision – offered to all teachers and TAs • Changed provider of staff insurance includes enhanced wellbeing services • TA1 upgraded to 2a to suit needs of pupil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff report that supervision is really beneficial • Member of SLT moving to KS1 gives morale boost to EYFS and KS1 staff • Professional development and wellbeing of staff enhanced whilst maintaining staffing levels and quality

		meets needs of current pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 new TAs recruited (at Feb 2023) • AD will move to year 1 • Request for part-time hours and another request for EYFS experience considered alongside needs in EYFS 	
Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements [Compliance]	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All policies up to date and reviewed to schedule • Fire Safety Requirements • GDPR • Compliance of website • Governors' safeguarding training up to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review GCPS spreadsheet • Termly audit of website by Curriculum Committee • Governor safeguarding responsibilities training 10th January • Prevent awareness training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website remains compliant • Safeguarding audit – excellent feedback • Health and Safety questionnaire passed • Ofsted fully satisfied
Community awareness and engagement (includes SIP 3) [Strategic leadership]	FULL CURR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong partnership between parents, wider community and school which enhances outcomes for pupils • Increase profile of governing body in school community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of parental questionnaires and feedback from maths evening • Chair's letter to parents (Jan 2023) • Governors help on trips and attend special events; Chair attended induction evening • Governors use their own community involvement to assist the school to develop further links 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of GFM for joint events with St Thomas's • Link with Camera Club

(VAF) THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNING BODY AT GARSTANG COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL 2022-2023. (A)				
Core Function 2: <i>hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils</i>				
Area to develop	Committee	Objectives	Actions	Impact
SIP 1 – Writing [Accountability]	SEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and support development of writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominated governor (PW) reports to SEC PW and SB writing learning walk with SN and SR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governors have better understanding of why writing is a SIP this year and how investment and focus is impacting across school Both maths and writing learning walks with governors were deemed very worthwhile – extend this to other curriculum areas (science?)
SIP 2 – Curriculum [Accountability]	CURR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure target of July 2023 is met for completion of curriculum documents in all foundation subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominated governor (PW) reports to CC AD to CC (Jan) to give detailed update on progress towards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountability helps to drive progress towards completion of documents by July 2023

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and support development of curriculum 	<p>completion of curriculum documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AD written report to CC (May) • PWR follow up progress with AD in June and report to Full Governors 	
Review of assessment data [Accountability]	SEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular scrutiny of internal and statutory assessment data assists timely and accurate identification of trends, areas of concern • Benchmarking exercises highlight areas in need of further attention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of LSIP by SEC indicated GD as a focus for data scrutiny • RW produced data summaries which highlighted GD children for discussion at SEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas for GD challenge eg book club • Further thought to be given to how GD children are identified in younger years • Data analysis feeds into SIP for next year

(VAF) THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNING BODY AT GARSTANG COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL 2022-2023. (F)				
Core Function 3: <i>oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent</i>				
Area to develop	Committee	Objectives	Actions	Impact
Monitoring of variable costs to ensure best value for money [Accountability]	P/H&S F&R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure best use of available resources Ensure energy usage within school is carefully monitored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benchmarking against similar and local schools Reviewed staff insurance – changed provider School actioned report by energy assessor Energy saving funding to be used to reduce SALIX loan? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows school to monitor and ensure our cost base is on track within tightening parameters Meaningful actions for energy saving are limited; school can take very small steps to reduce energy usage
Safeguarding and school security [Compliance] [People]	P/H&S FULL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure physical security of the school site Review access arrangements for Oak Tree Nursery to address safeguarding concerns In light of flooding (Sept 2022), mitigate future risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed situation and aim to ensure best solution with present resources. Ordered fencing to improve safety on playground. Fencing installed mid-May OTN access for parents will be from Lancaster Road between 9 am and 3.15 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Releases 1 member of welfare staff from monitoring access through gate on Oak Road Safeguarding issue arising from users of OTN crossing playground is addressed within current budgets
Financial sustainability in response to dwindling reserves [Accountability]	F&R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential savings Secure additional funding for school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate other funding options and income enhancements – AA to look into lottery funding Service cost review of OTN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to offset the challenge of increasing costs against reducing incomes Increased rental income from OTN ensures better support towards school budgets
