

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Victoria Lane Academy 2020-21

School Vision/Mission Statement

As a school, Victoria Lane Academy recognises that each child is an individual; that all children are creative; that all children need to succeed. Therefore, our school respects the individual needs of children; fosters a caring and creative environment; and emphasises the social, emotional and intellectual development of each child. Our aim is to ensure children become independent and self-sufficient adults who will succeed as lifelong learners and contribute responsibly in a global community

The Governing Body of Victoria Lane Academy 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, and the performance management of the staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

The Local Governing Body (LGB) of Victoria Lane Academy comprises twelve governors. The Headteacher and two other members of staff, two Parent Governors and seven governors and appointed by Tudhoe Learning Trust (TLT). There is also one Associate Governor. The full LGB meets once a term and there also other sub-committees: - Pupil Progress which, in normal times, is expected to meet twice a term and looks at all aspects of the children's education, progress, attainment and well-being of the children. There are also other sub-committees which meet as and when required; Personnel, Head Teacher Performance Management, Pay Review and Appeals.

Victoria Lane is a member of Tudhoe Learning Trust, and the Board of Directors also meet at least once a term. The Chief Executive Officer (Mr Jim Smith) and the Directors are legally responsible for the educational outcomes of all the member schools of the MAT as well as the overall financial running of the Trust.

The responsibilities of the LGB are laid out in the Scheme of Delegation produced by the Trust and which can be found on the Trust's website. In normal circumstances Heads of all schools meet at least once a term as do Chairs – reports on the content of these meetings are submitted to the LGB.

Each September governors meet with the Senior Leadership Team to look at the School Development/Improvement plan which is based on outcomes for the children in the previous school year and from this the areas for governor monitoring are decided.

The Headteacher produces a report each term covering all aspects of school life which is discussed at the termly LGB meeting and governors are able to ask questions and challenge, where appropriate.

Key issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body

At the beginning of September there was some optimism that the problems faced since March 20 would ease but this was short-lived. There was an increased expectation that all children would participate in remote learning. This meant that a tremendous amount of work, by the Senior Leadership Team and all other members of staff to obtain laptops/tablets for all children who did not have access to these items at home. It also

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| | <p>meant that members of staff were in touch with children to ensure that their well-being and safety was a priority. As visitors were not allowed at school LGB meetings were held virtually.</p> |
| <p>Assessment of impact</p> | <p>There are several different sources where the impact of what the staff and governors are doing can be measured. The Department for Education (DfE) publishes data for both schools and parents. This information can be accessed from the school website. Then there are the inspections carried out by OFSTED – these inspections provide a rigorous testing of the school’s judgement as to how well the school is doing. Victoria Lane Academy was inspected by OFSTED in September 2018 and was found to be GOOD. This is all due to the hard work and professionalism of all the staff. The Chief Executive Officer (Mr Jim Smith) is also involved in monitoring visits on a regular basis. Every year staff from other members of Tudhoe Learning Trust carry out what is called a Peer-to-Peer Review which is a detailed inspection of the school, very similar to an Ofsted inspection, and a qualified educationalist then checks the findings of the inspection to ensure that it is fair and accurate.</p> <p>Recommendations are then made for the school to carry out to ensure constant improvement in the children’s education. Governors also do monitoring visits, over the year, the direction of which is decided at the Planning meeting held in September. Subject leaders also produce reports for governors and, usually attend one GB meeting each year where they can answer questions raised by governors. The Pupil Progress Committee meet each half term with members of the Senior Leadership Team to look at previously agreed aspects of how the children are taught and to look at work books to identify whether progress is being made across the school. A new Director has been appointed who has vast experience in the primary sector of education who will strengthen the Directors ability to monitor and challenge the quality of education across the Trust.</p> |
| <p>Future plans for the Governing Body</p> | <p>The priority for the coming year is to fill the gaps in children’s knowledge caused by lockdowns and have the Year 2’s and Year 6’s prepared for the resumption of SATs at the end of KS1 and KS2. Staff and Governors must continue to seek to make continuous improvements to the way our children are educated and to adopt and adapt to the continual changes being made to the curriculum and many other aspects of school life. However, to ensure the children continue to make good or outstanding progress it is necessary for parents to be fully involved in their child’s education and support the school by ensuring that each child does their homework, reads and understands and comes to school on time and is ready to learn.</p> |
| <p>Contact details</p> | <p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office.</p> <p>Details of the full Governing Body and the attendance record are available on the school website.</p> |