

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of  
Solway Community School  
September 2017**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Solway Community School Governing Body are:

- 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;**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

**Governance arrangements**

The Governing Body of Solway Community School is made up of 14 Governors: 5 Parent Governors, 1 LA Governor, 1 staff Governor, 1 Headteacher and 6 co-opted Governors.

The full Governing Body meets once a month. Some of the meetings are virtual (i.e. via email, not face to face) but face to face meetings happen at least once every two months.

We also have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

Each Governor is also aligned to one of the three faculties (Maths and Science, Technical, Creative & Vocational, and Language and Humanities) depending on their expertise and interests, and hold regular meetings with faculties to review progress and activities.

**Attendance record of governors**

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings. Details of individual governors' attendance records in 2016-17 and 2017-18 are available on our website.

**The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body**

The Governing Body has had a busy year supporting our Headteacher to further improve the school and ensure that student progress continues to be rapid and sustained. They supported the launch of the collaboration with Beacon Hill, and were delighted to appoint Mr Hailwood as Deputy Headteacher when Mrs Schafer was appointed as Executive Headteacher of both Solway and Beacon Hill Schools.

November 2016 saw a visit from Ofsted, and while we were again judged as 'Requires Improvement', the detail showed that we have made significant progress, particularly in Effectiveness of Leadership and Management (now 'Good') and in Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare ('Good') and the number of actions required significant reduced.

The Governing Body have dealt with budgets, revenue and capital

	<p>spends for this year and have ensured that our three year budget is on track and is healthy as well as supporting the Executive Headteacher in improving the performance of our staff. They have supported the recruitment of several new members of staff to replace leavers and as at September 2017 were fully staffed with appropriately qualified teachers.</p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – they are available on request from the Clerk to the Governors.</p>
<p><b>Future plans for the governors</b></p>	<p>The Governing Body are working hard to encourage more pupils to come to our school. Our collaboration with Beacon Hill is important to ensure we can continue to provide the breadth of curriculum for all our students.</p> <p>Our strategy for 2017-18 includes supporting and challenging the Executive Headteacher’s approach to improving the standard of teaching and learning, accelerating progress and improving attainment at all levels, in particular for Pupil Premium students.</p> <p>We also continue to focus on attendance, safety and safeguarding, robust budgeting and financials and ensuring our pupils get the best possible outcome from their time with us.</p>
<p><b>How you can contact the governing body</b></p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. Please contact the Clerk to the Governors via the school office. You can also obtain minutes of governing body meetings and more information about what we do from the Clerk.</p> <p>We have provided details of governors and their attendance at meetings on our website and will continue to do so on a regular basis.</p>