



**Annual Statement for the Local Education Committee
of
Westminster Community Primary School
2022 – 2023**



“Believe in your ability to be your very best.”

Our Ethos

Our school is a welcoming, happy place where all pupils are well-known, respected and listened to. It is important to us that families feel part of the school community, can share their views and are recognised as key partners in their child’s education.

The Local Education Committee of Westminster Community Primary School works with the Head Teacher to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement. This annual statement outlines how the Local Education Committee has fulfilled its responsibilities and how it has fulfilled the core strategic functions as set out by the Government and The Department for Education.

Core Strategic Functions

- a) Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- b) Holding executive leaders to account (being a critical friend) for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
- c) Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure it is money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements

The Local Education Committee is made up of 6 governors as follows:-

- 3 co-opted governors
- 2 parent governors
- 1 staff governor
- Headteacher

The Local Education Committee strives to keep all governor posts filled, but this is not always possible, due to resignations, and finding willing, suitable candidates. It was with great sadness that we accepted the resignations of two co-opted governors this year thus reducing our overall numbers. Our grateful thanks go to both these people for the time and effort they have given to Westminster Community Primary School.

The full Local Education Committee meets six times a year and there are currently no other committees. This ensures that all governors are made aware of all the issues facing the school and Local Education Committee at first hand. Meetings this year have taken place both online and face to face.

Key Issues Faced by the Local Education Committee during 2022 – 2023

As in previous years the Local Education Committee has supported the Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team and the staff to advance the School Development Plan. As a reference point, the School Development Plan is written in

line with the priorities identified from school data and school self-evaluation. Westminster Community Primary School's School Development Plan is set out with clear aims, targets, and key tasks, which will be completed in order to achieve the identified areas so the school can move forward. The School Development Plan is a working document and is reviewed on a regular basis. Governors are always invited to be part of the review process.

Becoming part of the Weaver Academy Trust meant that we reviewed governor roles and responsibilities. We put all aspects of the curriculum under one umbrella with one governor taking responsibility for reporting back at LEC meetings on curriculum areas. It was decided to do it this way because the curriculum is so intertwined that it made much more sense.

Governors have continued to review all relevant policies on a programmed basis to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date.

Health and Wellbeing

The Local Education Committee have provided support wherever possible and have worked closely with the Headteacher to assist with decision making and any other issues.

Governors are kept up to date with how the staff are monitoring and supporting vulnerable children. The health and wellbeing of staff is always a key priority, with the senior leadership team conducting regular wellbeing checks with staff and adapting work/responsibilities to fit around any specific needs. The Chair of Governors kept in regular contact with the Headteacher to ensure that she was mindful of her own wellbeing too.

The governor responsible for Wellbeing, Looked after Children and Safeguarding reports back at each LEC meeting having first met with the Headteacher.

Health and Safety practices are always closely monitored, and we thank the Headteacher and all the staff for everything that is done to ensure the children's safety, as well as that of the staff and visitors alike at all times.

Oversight and Governance

Throughout what has been a challenging year, the Local Education Committee have continued to hold the school leaders to account and act as a "critical and supportive friend" of the school.

Westminster Community Primary School offers a variety of interventions and programmes designed to help pupils reach their full potential. As governors we hold the headteacher and staff to account by asking challenging questions to ensure all pupils progress to the best of their ability. Questions asked at LEC meetings are minuted as are the responses given.

Assessment of Impact

Governors continue to provide a high level of challenge to the Headteacher and the School. They consider a range of documents and data provided by the School in order to judge the impact of strategies within the School. Governors also visit the School to meet with staff and pupils so as to gain a greater understanding of the School and the on-going requirement to raise standards. The School's Improvement Partner provides comprehensive write ups of her visits which are then shared and discussed at Local Education Committee meetings

Funding and Finances

School funding is always a key issue for the Local Education Committee. The Governors are committed to ensuring

that the school budget is spent wisely and for the benefit of the pupils. Governors are responsible for the monitoring and the impact and use of the Pupil Premium Grant. Detailed information regarding the use of this funding is available on the school website. The impact of the Sports Grant is also monitored by the Governors and in conjunction with the Head Teacher. A full report on spending and impact is also available on the school website. The school budget is very closely monitored, and as governors we thank the headteacher for being able to prioritise funding appropriately and also the bursar for the very comprehensive reports which are prepared for governors. This year we have had monthly finance visits from Weaver Academy Trust and these have proved to be really beneficial. The support we have had from the Trust has been much appreciated.

Safeguarding

Governors are committed to ensuring the effectiveness of school safeguarding. The Chair of Governors and Safeguarding Link Governor meet with the Head Teacher to ensure all protocols and procedures are robust to ensure safety for all pupils, staff and visitors of the school. CPOMS is utilised and fully embedded and this continues to enable the staff and school to further improve their management of child protection and incidents and ensure the school's system runs even more efficiently. The safeguarding governor reports back to governors at each LEC meeting having first met with the Headteacher.

Some key issues that governors have faced this year.

- Scrutiny and analysis of interim in-school results of pupil progress.
- Monitoring changes in pupil numbers and the implications for both budget and staffing.
- Ensuring effective provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- Ensuring that the school follows all systems and procedures within Weaver Trust
- The implementation of the Weaver Academy Trust curriculum.
- The resignation of two co-opted governors.
- The resignation of the Head teacher.
- The resignation of two members of teaching staff.

One Year On...

When we became part of the Weaver Trust we strongly believed that it would enable us to work with leaders in other schools who had a proven track record of curriculum development, give our strongest leaders opportunities to take responsibility for supporting more schools, develop great teachers and allow us as a school to focus on what really matters – teaching, learning and a curriculum that is based on what works. That is exactly what it has done! We firmly believe at Westminster in the continual drive for excellence for everyone and a vision that we can always do and be better. In joining the Trust, Westminster has not lost its unique identity; it has allowed us to elevate the school to that next level of success.

The curriculum which we adopted from the Trust underpins the mission, vision and values of our school. We as governors have seen how this adopted curriculum empowers our teachers to deliver knowledge rich content across the wider curriculum. The sequences of learning deliver the statutory elements of the National Curriculum. Our

children are given the time to master knowledge and skills. This in turn, ensures our immersive, connected curriculum leads to impact and improved outcomes for children. Westminster expects all of our children, whatever their starting point, to make academic progress. By adopting this curriculum we hope that the impact will also be seen through the ability of our children to be resilient, tolerant, moral citizens who know how their actions, thoughts and opinions can make an impact on others and in the world we live in.

Thank you

I cannot over emphasise how grateful I am to the head, staff, pupils, families and governors who have gone above and beyond to support Westminster Community Primary School during the challenges of this past year. The commitment and determination to ensure that children continue to receive the best education possible has been, and continues to be, amazing. The relationship between governors and all staff is based on trust, respect and support, the results of which are the best education we can give for all pupils. We look forward to an exciting and productive year ahead with our new headteacher. We will continue to work with the new headteacher, Weaver Academy Trust and all the staff for the benefits of all the pupils, staff and the school community of Westminster Community Primary School.

I cannot end without an enormous 'thank you' to our outgoing Headteacher as she moves to pastures new. The impact that she has had at Westminster is immeasurable and her presence around school will be sorely missed but it is a new chapter for us all, one which we embrace with enthusiasm and excitement. As a Chair I shall miss the wonderful working relationship that we have had over time, the ever listening ear and always a solution to whatever happens. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the Headteacher and I shall miss her greatly.

Sue Mayers

Chair of Governors

