



Governors' Impact Statement 2020 -2021

Governing Body

The Governing Body's statutory duties include ensuring all legal duties are carried out and that children, staff and visitors stay safe when in school. As such, this year collectively Governors have visited school or met virtually over 70 times! This includes Governing Body meetings, as well as health & safety walk around checks, visiting classes and meetings with the Senior Leadership Team.

School Governors are responsible for the strategic direction of their school, for holding the Leadership team to account, for overseeing the financial performance of the school.

We meet as a full Governing Body each term to agree the School Development Plan (a detailed plan for one year, in outline for a further 2 years) to monitor its progress and to ensure the budget remains on track. We have 3 committees, which look at different aspects in more detail. They also meet termly prior to Governing Body meetings so they can report on their discussions and recommendations:

We operate around a structure of committees and we say that this is where the real work gets done. There are 3 main committees, each with its own Chair:

We are blessed with a highly skilled and committed team of Governors who have a simple mission and that is to work to improve the education of our children. This year we have welcomed two new Governors onto our board, both of whom bring a vast amount of experience and expertise in both education, HR and finance.

We are all very proud and honoured to serve as Governors at Oakridge and we all take a strong interest in our school, providing both challenge and support to Mr Fisher, his senior leadership team and staff. We are delighted that the school continues to build upon its success from the last Ofsted in July 2014 with standards across the school remaining very high and the quality of teaching and learning continuing to improve. We firmly believe that a key reason for the success of Oakridge is the excellent staff and leadership we have, who are all hardworking and dedicated to the excellent education of our children, ensuring they all receive a Disneyland curriculum that pushes them to reach for the stars every day. We also have amazing support from parents and the community as seen by people's support and commitment to successful events like the school fairs, sporting competitions, assemblies and enrichment activities. The Governing Body would like to thank you for your continued support for the school.

One of the key functions of the Governing Body is to ensure everybody within the school stays safe and we are delighted that we received a Health & Safety audit which stated that, 'The site is maintained to a high standard of repair and housekeeping in general was of a very good

standard. Overall this organisation is performing well, with the standard of health and safety management showing good performance results.'

Covid has meant that as a Governing Board has worked closely with the school to ensure that all risk assessments are comprehensive and fully complied to. As a result of the Covid Risk Assessment and action plan the school has remained open with high attendance.

This year we have also managed to secure a further £52,000 grant to replace the school roof as well as secure funding to replace the hot water boilers within school. We have also replaced the Yr 5 windows, put new sinks in the reception classroom as well as ensured that the building is kept to a high standard. Further work planned includes:-

- New car parking spaces for staff and visitors
- Extending the playground area for KS1
- Enhancing the KS2 playground markings
- Painting classrooms and corridors

The above work will be carried out during the summer holidays.

A further challenge facing us as Governors is the increased financial pressures put upon our school budget. The Leadership and Management Committee which has met on five occasions this year, ensures that the resources that the school receives are used efficiently and effectively. The three year budgetary plan which has been developed ensures that the schools vision can continue to be delivered effectively with a focus on delivering the best possible outcomes for our children. This ensures that we are able to employ Mrs Holland to deliver high quality art and D and T and Mr Malkin to deliver high quality PE as well as providing our children with a wide range of sporting opportunities. We also ensure that as a school we invest in the best resources for our children ensuring that they add value to our children's learning. An example this year is our investment in 'maths no problem' which has built further upon our 'Singapore' approach to maths teaching.

Being one of the lowest funded schools in one of the lowest funded Local Authorities the schools results and the curriculum provision demonstrate excellent value for money. The best resource that we have at Oakridge is our staff, as they have the biggest influence upon children's learning.

Financial Benchmarking (2021/22)	Oakridge	Stafford Primary School Average	National Primary School Average	National Average for all schools
Income Per Pupil - Grant	£4,161	£4,361	£4,582	£5,101

Compared to the national average, Oakridge receives £940 less per pupil than the national average for all schools in England, which equates to over £200,000 less in the school budget compared to many other schools across England. Compared to the national primary school average Oakridge receives £421 less which equates to over £103,000. This has been compounded even further with the impact of covid which has seen an £80,000 reduction in income from our wraparound care provision.

Mr Fisher along with other Head teachers meets our MP and County Councillors regularly to ensure that this injustice continues to be fought and as a Governing Board we need to ensure that this issue is kept high on the Government's agenda.

By running our own School Direct program to develop new teachers, as well as delivering a range of well-respected teacher training courses (NPQH, NPQML and SL), we have generated £30 000 additional income this year from the courses that we have delivered. With budgets being significantly cut, this externally generated income ensures that we can maintain staffing levels and provide our children with an outstanding education.

Some of the schools achievements over the last year include:

- The school continues to be categorised as outstanding by the Local Authority
- Remote learning policy has resulted in feedback from parents re lockdown learning have been overwhelmingly positive
- The full curriculum was delivered even during lockdown
- Standards have remained consistently high and the proportion of children achieving at and above NE in all year groups is outstanding.
- The school vision of a 'Disneyland Curriculum' is continuing to being lived as can be seen by the number of enrichment activities that are provided to enhance the school curriculum even during lockdown.
- The school continues to partner the Alliance of Leading Learning in delivering the NPQML and NPQH qualifications
- The continuing successful implementation of the Schools Direct programme.
- Continued support for the development of staff which has seen the school invest in the Visible Learning Program which has enhanced all staffs knowledge of leaning.
- The increase in sporting participation at after school clubs is the highest in the schools history.
- The budget continues to be managed extremely competently and is in a healthy position.
- Yrs 1,2,3,4,5 have visited Laches Wood
- The school has not stood still and subject leaders have all developed their subjects still further.

The Governing Body is not there to run the School on a day to day basis; that is the job of the staff and the Headteacher. However, the Governing Body welcome any comments or questions you may have regarding the strategic direction and the vision of the School, which we have set. If you would like to contact the Governors, please telephone the School and leave a message, or email us at governors@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk.

Andy Felton - Chair of Governors