



Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of

Riverside School, London Borough of Bromley

July 2019

As a Governing Board we believe it is important that any families or partners who wish to know more about what we do are able to find this out. Many of the activities we carry out as a Board are continuous activities which happen every year such as reviewing achievement reports, budget and expenditure reports, policies, etc. If you would like to find out about the general work of the Governing Board, including what **we do and don't do**, please visit our website www.riversideschool.org.uk (Menu>Community>Governors) or go straight to the page by clicking on the link <http://www.riversideschool.org.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=62>

The aim of this statement is to update you on our governor priorities for the 2018/19 academic year and share with you some of the changes that have been put in place by the Senior Leadership Team this year, which I hope you agree, will continue to enhance your child's education and school experience.

Every year Riverside's School Development Plan is updated to include the initiatives that are believed will make a difference to our pupils and lead us closer to not only our vision of *'inspiring breakthroughs in the way society enables children with complex needs find true fulfilment'*, but also support our school aim of *'transforming the lives of our children and the lives of their families'*. The initiatives which the school have implemented this year and the key elements of the school's plan for 2019/20, are summarised on page 4 of this report. More detail is on the school website.

Thank you to so many of you who have completed governor-led surveys and Parent View as part of the recent Ofsted inspection process. Thank you to those who stop to chat when we ask how things are going. We love to hear what you think of our school and how we can continue to make it even better. Thank you and welcome to our new Co-opted Governor Denika Campbell and our new Parent Governor Laura Pellatt too.

<p><i>"Clarity of vision"</i></p> <p><i>"Educational Performance"</i></p> <p><i>"Holding the Headteacher to account"</i></p> <p><i>"Financial Performance"</i></p>	<p>As a summary, and in accordance with Government requirements, Riverside School's Governing Board focuses on its statutory duties and 3 main strategic functions, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 for the performance management of the staff; 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent. <p>Details of who we are and how we work under these 3 headings are included within the governor section of the website.</p>
	<p><i>"Transforming our children's lives and the lives of their families"</i></p>

The Governing Board had 4 priorities for the 2018/19 academic year.

- 1. Continue to embed our Measuring Success initiative and the collation of evidence enabling Riverside to efficiently and effectively monitor the delivery of its pledges**
- 2. Continue to engage with the whole school community, ensuring feedback continues to be fed into strategic planning exercises**
- 3. Preparations for articulating Riverside's 2020 vision started in 2014. During 2018/19 it will be necessary to start looking ahead to 2025 and thinking collectively about what will be important for Riverside's 'Think 2025' vision**
- 4. Continue to contribute to LA and CCG SEND strategic planning initiatives and develop the outward facing nature of our school, as indicated within Pledge 3 and Ofsted feedback**

1. Continue to embed our Measuring Success initiative and the collation of evidence enabling Riverside to efficiently and effectively monitor the delivery of its pledges

'Riverside School's mission, vision, and strategic pledges'



This was all about how we KNOW the school is delivering on the 4 pledges which will get us closer to achieving our school vision and ensuring we are transforming lives. We have looked at the way school information is reported to the Board and in January 2019 we restructured our responsibilities so that we know we are focusing on what really matters.

For example, we now have a governor who looks specifically at Life After Riverside. We have a governor who looks at how we manage personalisation within the curriculum. Based on feedback about how we need to share the great work and school expertise further afield, we now have an External Impact and Collaboration Governor. This involves the careful balance of how we share our practice with others whilst ensuring staff time remains focused on Riverside pupils and enabling them to Be All That They Can Be.

Over the course of the year, we've tested out what we are doing by going to see 2 other highly regarded special schools – one in North London and one in Maidstone. It was a great opportunity to learn from each other and as a result we are confident that what we are doing is innovative and meaningful for our pupils and families.

'Sharing and learning from others'

'Co-producing solutions with staff and families'

'Family Conference'

'Working in partnership with the Local Authority, CCG and other colleagues'

'Reflecting and Planning'

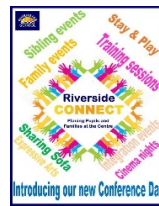
'Borough-wide SEND Strategy'

2. Continue to engage with the whole school community, ensuring feedback continues to be fed into strategic planning exercises

Listening to the views of everyone involved with our school is important to us. As a Board we held 2 feedback sessions with staff in December and these helped to provide ideas for priorities. These are reflected either in the School Development Plan on page 4 or will be considered as part of our 2025 Visioning work.

Standing still is not an option for Riverside. One of the areas for school improvement mentioned in the 2017/8 family survey was communication between home and school. We know this is so incredibly important especially for our families where children are not able to communicate about their day. Thank you to the families who took part in the Home School Communication Focus Groups at St. Pauls' Cray and Beckenham. Like many initiatives at Riverside it is an evolving process, but you will see many of the ideas discussed when the new home/school communication books are sent out in September. Do let us know your thoughts.

Based on family feedback about opportunities to learn more about how supporting learning outside of school we are running a Conference for families on 24th September 2019. Please do put the date in your diaries. More details to follow.



3. Preparations for articulating Riverside's 2020 vision started in 2014. During 2018/19 it will be necessary to start looking ahead to 2025 and thinking collectively about what will be important for Riverside's 'Dare To Dream 2025' vision

As part of our strategic planning work, we invited Bromley's new Director of Education (Jared Nehra) and Head of Service for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) (Debi Christie) to spend some time with the Board in February. This was to ensure all Board members were able to hear about Borough priorities.

We have reflected on feedback from staff and families and started to ask questions such as: 'Are the 4 pledges still the best pledges? Have we identified all the factors that make learning particularly hard or easy for our pupils? How much accountability do we take for achieving great outcomes for our pupils which can often involve many agencies? What does all of this mean for the school in 2025 and then, of course, how will we get there?

Over the next 2 terms we will be sharing our thinking more widely. Families will be a key part of this process, culminating in a picture of what we are heading. Watch this space.

4. Continue to contribute to LA and CCG SEND strategic planning initiatives and develop the outward facing nature of our school, as indicated within Pledge 3 and Ofsted feedback

Steve Solomons (Headteacher) and I have been involved in borough-wide discussions again this academic year looking at opportunities and challenges involved in supporting children and young people from 0-25 with SEND. We have both attended the bimonthly SEND Governance Board meetings, chaired by the Chief Executive of Bromley Council. This Board includes directors and officers from across the Local Authority and the CCG, providers of services such as Mencap as well as Bromley Parent Voice representatives. There is a considerable amount of work on-going with colleagues to identify the gaps in provision and what is needed for all children and young people with SEND to achieve good holistic outcomes. A new 3-year action plan is in the process of being finalised and draws together more than ever before Education, Health and Social Care to work collaboratively in improving outcomes for Bromley's children. We think this is great news for Riverside pupils.

What has changed this year?

As part of Riverside's School Development Plan, the school has successfully implemented the following initiatives in 2018/19:

- ✓ Performed in front of Prince Harry and Princess Meghan as winners of the Wellchild Choir of the Year
- ✓ Teamed up with Microsoft to personalise the Swiftkey assistive communication app
- ✓ Built a brand new and fully equipped sensory space at Riverside SPC
- ✓ Re-designed brand-new Early Years playgrounds at both Riverside SPC and Riverside Beckenham
- ✓ Introduced the popular Happy Cafe at Riverside Beckenham
- ✓ Extended our Work and Community Experience Week to include over 30 different local businesses
- ✓ Offered residential trips to the Isle of Wight and camping for Riverfest
- ✓ Produced and performed a training pantomime for a wide range of community partners
- ✓ Performed a set at Chislehurst Rocks
- ✓ Refurbished our polytunnel and revamped all outdoor areas to improve learning outside the classroom opportunities
- ✓ Introduced a new professional learning programme to upskill staff in key school development priorities
- ✓ Provided outreach and training to external colleagues on a number of different topics
- ✓ Extended the range of accredited courses on offer, including AQA unit awards, Arts Award, Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, swimming awards, scootsure and bikeability among many others
- ✓ Enjoyed both individual and team successes at a number of regional sporting competitions
- ✓ Held our first Riverside Community Football Match at Bromley FC

..... and of course, not forgetting that Riverside School achieved an "Outstanding" grade in all 6 areas by Ofsted in May 2019.

Priorities for 2019/2020

As a Board, the main areas of focus will be continuing to ensure the school is Being The Best It Can Be and working with the Leadership Team in finalising future planning. The main areas for the school next year, will be embedding a lot of the progress that has been made on key initiatives in previous years and will include:

"19/20 School Development Plan"

2019/20			
Pledge 1	Pledge 2	Pledge 3	Pledge 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils having a 'voice' • Sensory information processing • Engagement strategies with families, multi-agency partners and community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater fulfilment and self-confidence through personalised Expressive Arts initiatives • Self-expression and self-regulation through therapeutic application of Expressive Arts • Expressive Arts in the home and in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment for Learning and sophisticated differentiation • Comprehensive and bespoke professional learning for Riverside staff • Contribution to system leadership and professional learning for staff from agencies outside of Riverside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil processing and management of sensory information • Pupil emotional regulation • New suite of Pursuit of Happiness initiatives

Thank you everyone

It was a pleasure to be part of the Ofsted inspection a few months ago and to be able to discuss all the great things happening at Riverside. The passion and dedication of everyone involved with Riverside continues to shine through. Thank you everyone.

Contact Us

"Get involved"

Should you wish to know more, wish to share your views, or interested in becoming a Governor please contact either George or myself via katrina.oleary@riverside.bromley.sch.uk or georgina.christian@riverside.bromley.sch.uk. There will be another exciting opportunity to volunteer as a Parent Governor next term.

Thank you for reading!

Katrina O'Leary, Chair of Governors (July 2019)

