

Riverside Annual Governance Statement 2022-23

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual governance statement, which sets out the work of the governing board over the last year.

Who we are

Our [Governing Board](#) is made up of four parent governors, one local authority governor, 1 staff Governor and 4 co-opted governors. Over the last year we have said goodbye and a huge thank you to Judi Ellis, Ajit Menon and Laura Pellatt who have all stepped down at the end of their terms. We have been delighted to welcome Chris Price and Marjoleine Hulshof to our board.

Our job

Our job is to make sure that the school runs effectively. The three core functions of the governing board are:

1. Ensuring Riverside has a clear vision for where we want to go;
2. Making sure our pupils and staff do as well as they can; and
3. Ensuring Riverside's money is well spent.

All governors sit on the full governing board and one of our two committees, Resources Committee and Personalisation, Engagement, Curriculum and Transition (PECT) Committee.

Our priorities

As well as the 10 pledges of the School Development Plan, the governing board has focused on 4 priorities over the last year:

- 1) We will continue to deliver a truly inclusive environment, in which the whole school community feel welcomed, valued and confident to bring their whole selves to the school.
- 2) We will ensure that the quality of provision for our families is of the highest standard and consistent across all Riverside sites.
- 3) We will work with the local community to create an equitable, fair and responsible culture that transforms our world.
- 4) We will build and learn from our experiences over the past 2 years to deliver a curriculum that promotes the development and wellbeing of our pupils

Progress on our priorities

Riverside School has made huge progress on our Belonging agenda, which is at the heart of one of our 10 pledges. So much of what started out being part of this agenda is now simply what we do, and acknowledged as part of shared collective responsibility. Our resources and teaching materials now reflect and celebrate our whole school community. Belonging is part of each pupil's Happiness

Passport and Unique Profile. Promoting inclusion and celebrating diversity is part of regular staff training.

In September 2022 we opened our fourth site, Riverside Phoenix, for some of our youngest pupils. As a governing board we are so happy that we have been able to visit all four sites throughout the year, and get to speak to staff, pupils and parents. Through our joiners survey we have been delighted to hear that parents at all sites are really pleased with their children's placements. As a board we review data on both pupil attainment and teaching and learning, and are reassured that pupils on all four sites make excellent progress.

We have continued to build links with other local schools and colleges, and to ensure that pupils have experiences outside of the classroom within their local community. Our secondary community and work experience fortnight was a great success. Our pupils at Beckenham and St Paul's Cray have learnt so much through opening up the Happy Café and Riverside Lounge to the community.

We are continuing to develop and enhance our curriculum offer to our pupils – building on the successes of ways of working developed through Covid. We have always placed The Pursuit of Happiness at the heart of our children's curriculum and our Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) and Happiness Passports reflect this ambition. We have invested in the physical environment across all four sites to help our children have access to the types of activities, resources and spaces they need to support their sensory and regulation needs.

Our school

Pupil numbers: Currently we have 335 over four sites and this is likely to increase to approximately 350 in September 2023 as we add an additional class at both Riverside Phoenix and St Paul's Cray.

Finance: Overall budget income for the 22/23 financial year is £9,075,296. Forecast budget income for the 23/24 financial year is £9,662,391.

Next year

As we plan for governance in the coming academic year, we have agreed that alongside the 10 pledges, we will continue to focus on priorities 1-3 above. We will also include a new fourth priority:

- We will oversee a relentless focus on preparation for life after Riverside to ensure that pupils transition smoothly to appropriate provision.

Get in touch

Thank you for your interest. If you want to find out more about the work of the governing board or anything in this statement please get in touch as follows:

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