

Riverside School Annual Governance Statement July 2021

Introduction

Hello all

This is my second annual governance statement as chair of the governing board and it has been another eventful year.

I'm sure you would all want to join me in expressing our appreciation to the staff and leadership of Riverside for managing to keep educating and supporting our children and families so heroically over this last year.

I would also like to express thanks to Emmanuel Arbenser, who recently completed 8 years as a parent governor, for all his contributions over that period. We're delighted to welcome Gemma Mumford as our new parent governor.

In this report we will set out the roles and responsibilities of the governing board; what we do; our vision for the school and progress we have made over the last year; and what we will be focusing on in the coming year.

We will also remind you how to get in touch with us if you want to find out more about what we do.

We are very much looking forward to the coming year and a period that we hope will bring a little more stability, allowing us to build on all we have learnt in the last 18 months to go from strength to strength.

*George Christian
Chair of Governors*

What do we do – governing 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 clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

How do we do it

- This year all of our meetings have been held virtually due to Covid
- We've used phonecalls to carry out our named governor roles and governor days have been on zoom calls, so we can still see and speak to pupils and staff

Full Governing Board
Chair: George Christian

PECT committee

Claire Osborn (Chair)
George Christian, Judi Ellis, Roger Fernandes, Charley Court, Steve Solomons, Naomi Walters, Clare Carter

Personalisation, Engagement, Curriculum and Transition

Resources committee

Darren Jenkins (Chair)
George Christian, Ian Johnston, Gemma Mumford, Ajit Menon, Laura Pellatt, Steve Solomons, Naomi Walters, Clare Carter

Finance, staff and premises

All of our 10 governors sit on the full governing board and on one of our two committees

Our vision for the school and how we'll get there

- Our mission is to transform our children's lives and the lives of their families
- Our vision is to inspire breakthroughs in the way society enables children with complex needs to find true fulfilment
- For 2020/21 academic year, we concentrated on four strategic priorities

Our strategic priorities

We will ensure that lessons from lockdown shape our practice as we return to a new normal and our whole school community will feel supported during this continuing challenging period

We will ensure that the opening of our third site, Riverside West Wickham, provides families with the same quality of provision as our existing sites and that excellence is spread across the whole school

We will continue to innovate and develop the Expressive and Performing Arts and will extend our community and professional partnerships within the context of COVID-19

We will further strengthen a truly inclusive environment, in which the whole school community feel welcomed, valued and confident to bring their whole selves to the school

Governor priorities for 2020/2021 and progress

1. Returning to a new normal – taking the best bits from lockdown and making sure we build on and embed them in our practice going forwards, whilst helping pupils, staff and families recover from what has been an incredibly challenging period

Progress

- All families now have a Home Learning Plan, to complement the learning that happens in the class room, and support any periods of home learning due to Covid
- More flexible lunchtime arrangements and even greater levels of personalisation in the use of shared spaces around the school



2. Ensuring the opening of a third site in West Wickham provides families with the same quality of provision as on offer at SPC and Beckenham, spreading rather than diluting our excellence

Progress

We're delighted with how well the opening of Riverside West Wickham has gone this year, despite to challenges created by covid restrictions. We've reviewed the following data to confirm that the quality of provision matches SPC and Beckenham:

- Progress for pupils at West Wickham matches progress at both other sites
- Parental satisfaction is very high, and families continue to recommend us to prospective families
- We are increasing to full capacity in September (45 places) and demand is greater than the number of places we can provide

Governor priorities for 2020/2021 and progress

3. Continuing to develop performing arts and extending our partnerships within the context of Covid-19

Progress:

Whilst covid has still affected what expressive arts experiences we can deliver and how, we are delighted to have met some of our key objectives:

- We have doubled our expressive arts capacity for the Summer term with all pupils enjoying a 3-week block of bespoke sessions
- We recently worked closely with Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance on a research and development project with our older pupils



4. Reviewing how we foster an inclusive environment, where all members of our community feel welcomed and valued, and can bring their whole selves to the school

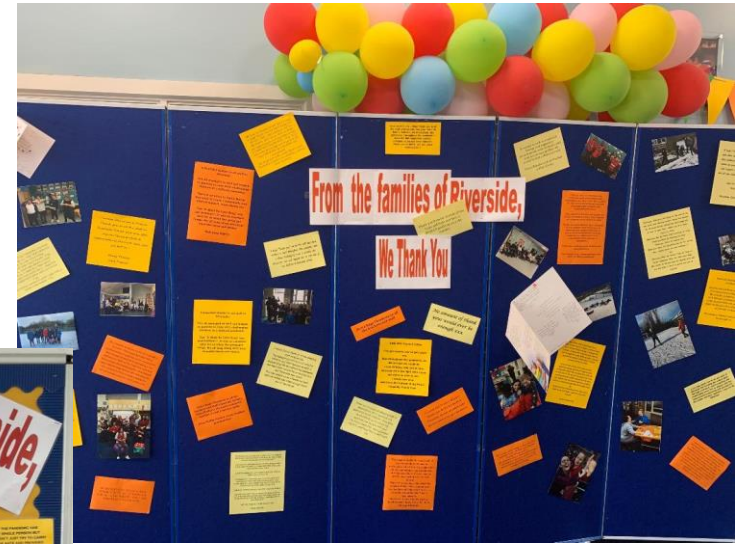
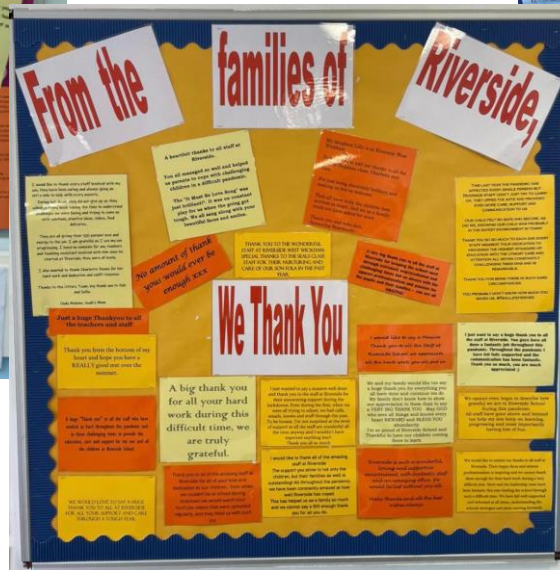
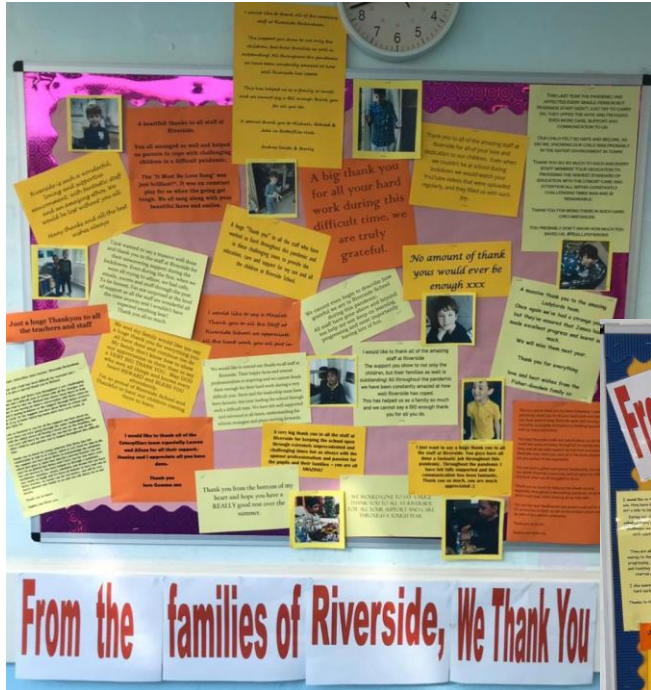


Progress:

- Families joined us for a workshop in the autumn term to start the conversation about how we ensure all members of the Riverside community feel welcomed and included
- Staff attended an annual conference in May, spending the day exploring issues around inclusion and diversity and what this means for us as a school.

Thank you Riverside

Parents joined governors to thank staff for all they have done to support our children this year, with messages of gratitude displayed at all three sites, and letters sent to every staff member.





Riverside Statistics

Pupil numbers

- Currently we have 302 pupils on our school roll. 213 pupils are at our St Paul's Cray site and 55 are at Beckenham and 34 at West Wickham. From September we will increase our school roll to approximately 320 pupils with one extra class at Riverside SPC and one extra class at Riverside West Wickham.

Finance

- Overall budget income for the 20/21 financial year is £7,698,835
- Forecast budget income for the 21/22 financial year is £8,283,491

Governing Board strategic priorities for 2021/22

We've agreed that much of our focus over the last year remains relevant as we (hopefully) emerge from the pandemic – so our priorities for the coming year are as follows:

1. Returning to a new normal – taking the best bits from our new ways of working and making sure we continually learn, build on and embed them in our practice going forwards.



1. Prioritise family engagement, ensuring that pupils and families are able to tell us what they want from Riverside
2. Continuing to develop performing arts and extending our partnerships within the context of Covid-19/post-Covid
3. Continue our journey to foster an inclusive environment, where all members of our community feel welcomed and valued, and can bring their whole selves to the school

Get in touch

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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Be All That You Can Be

