

Riverside School
Annual Governance Statement
July 2022

Introduction

Hello all,

This annual governance statement sets out the work of Riverside Governing Board over the last year.

It tells you who we are, what we do, how we see the future for Riverside and how to get in touch with us if you want to find out more about what we do.

I would like to thank Gemma Mumford for her contribution to the board, and welcome back Emmanuel Arbenser, who rejoined the board as a parent governor in May.

We are really excited to be opening a 4th site in Bromley in September, and the opportunity for more families to experience The Riverside Way.

George Christian
Chair of Governors

What do we do as a 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 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.

How do we do it

This year all of our meetings have been held virtually due to Covid, but we have been delighted to come back into school for in-person governor days, to see pupils and staff.

Full Governing Board
Chair: George Christian

PECT committee
Claire Osborn (Chair)
George Christian, Judi Ellis, Roger Fernandes, Charley Court, Emmanuel Arbenser, Steve Solomons, Naomi Walters

Personalisation, Engagement, Curriculum & Transition

Resources committee
Darren Jenkins (Chair)
George Christian, Ian Johnston, Ajit Menon, Laura Pellatt, Steve Solomons, Naomi Walters

Finance, staff and premises

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

Governor priorities for 2021/2022 and progress

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.



We have:

- Rolled out Home Learning Plans (HLPs) to support all pupils' Personal Learning Plans (PLPs);
- Continued to ensure that The Pursuit of Happiness is embedded into our curriculum framework;
- Extended Community Experience for all Secondary-aged pupils;
- Increased personalisation in areas such as lunchtime arrangements and educational visits;
- Improved collaborative practice with therapy colleagues to ensure a joined-up approach to meeting holistic needs.

2. Prioritise family engagement, ensuring that pupils and families are able to tell us what they want from Riverside School.



We have:

- Reintroduced Riverside Connect;
- Opened the Riverside Lounge and refreshed The Happy Café;
- Carried out joiners' surveys to help us understand what families need from the school;
- Set up different pupil voice groups to campaign on local and national issues;
- Delivered our seventh annual Family Project.

Governor priorities for 2021/2022 and progress

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



We have:

- Extended our collaboration with Rose Bruford College to include both performance and training opportunities;
- Extended our partnership with Peoplescape Theatre and facilitated visits to The Barbican;
- Supported A New Direction to contribute to the "I Am" Festival;
- Contributed to a virtual international collaboration project (to be released soon);

4. 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



We have:

- Launched our Be Here. Be You. Belong agenda on all three sites;
- Set up Reflective Libraries which reflect and celebrate our whole school population;
- Increased and improved diversity and representation in school displays and signage;
- Distributed termly newsletters to chart our journey and progress to date;
- Produced a whole school film to capture our year's work (to be released soon).

Riverside Statistics



Pupil numbers

Currently we have 320 pupils over three sites and this is likely to increase to approximately 335 over four sites in September 2022.

Finance

Overall budget income for the 21/22 financial year is £8,357,736

Forecast budget income for the 22/23 financial year is £8,454,222

Our 10 Pledges and strategic priorities for 2022/23

Pledge 1	We will equip our pupils with a profoundly personalised curriculum framework so that they succeed, flourish and leave their mark on the world.
Pledge 2	We will improve the emotional wellbeing of our pupils and their families by placing The Pursuit of Happiness at the heart of our multi-agency work.
Pledge 3	We will ensure current and future pupils make remarkable progress by attracting and developing the highest calibre special educators at Riverside School and beyond.
Pledge 4	We will shift mindsets, shape policy and change practice to secure system-wide school improvement at a local, national and international level.
Pledge 5	We will ensure that families have their lived experiences acknowledged and their voices heard in order to bring about positive change for themselves, their children and other families.
Pledge 6	We will improve community access, inclusion and participation for our pupils and their families and create a ripple in communities up and down the country,
Pledge 7	We will make the seemingly unachievable achievable by engaging, energising and mobilising our whole school community to Build a Brighter Future – The Riverside Way.
Pledge 8	We will consciously, deliberately and systematically ensure that our school and the local community is a more sustainable and greener place.
Pledge 9	We will campaign tirelessly with, and for our pupils and their families to amplify the voices of disadvantaged and marginalised communities and create a society which is more equal, just and fair.
Pledge 10	We will promote inclusion and celebrate diversity in all its forms to ensure that everyone in our school community feels a true sense of belonging.

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.

We will ensure that the quality of provision for our families is of the highest standard and consistent across all Riverside sites.

We will work with the local community to create an equitable, fair and responsible culture that transforms our world.

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

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

