

Riverside Annual Governance Statement 2023-24

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, one staff governor and four co-opted governors. Over the last year we have held elections for a staff governor and two parent governors. These resulted in Charley Reed being re-elected as staff governor and Roger Fernandes being re-elected as a parent governor, as well as Saddaf Solomon joining us as a new parent governor. We would like to welcome them all to the 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.

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

Progress on our priorities

- 1) Our Belonging Agenda (Be Here. Be You. Belong) remains at the heart of one of our ten pledges and our commitment to celebrating pupil and staff difference runs through our curriculum planning and whole school culture. We have held Bring Yourself Days to reflect every member of the school community's background, heritage and culture and is part of our wider commitment to understand

one another better, to actively promote inclusion and celebrate diversity. Our Belonging Team has worked across all sites to ensure our whole school community see themselves reflected in all curriculum resources, choice of texts and across the physical environment.

- 2) As the school has grown in size, it is so important to ensure that our pupils receive the best possible provision, regardless of their age, phase, site or pathway. As a governing board, we visit our different sites over the course of the year and have the opportunity to speak to staff, pupils and families. Family surveys and feedback from events such as the Family Conference, Transition Morning, Expressive Arts Shows and Join in June suggest that families on 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.
- 3) We believe that not only should Riverside pupils feel part of their local communities, but we also have a responsibility to influence and affect positive change beyond our school gates. We fully support the inclusion of community participation within the curriculum and building further links with other schools, colleges and community organisations. We also support the school's commitment to building cultural capital and widening our pupils' worlds. Our Secondary Phase's community and work experience programme goes from strength to strength and we are pleased that residential opportunities (such as camping and Isle of Wight trip) are now built into the timetable as pupils move through the school.
- 4) The majority of our pupils are with us for the whole of their school career, with a small number joining us for their secondary years. This means that moving on from Riverside can be daunting for pupils and families alike and we know that the school tries hard to ease the transition as much as possible. The curriculum in KS4 and Sixth Form in particular has a real focus on skills for life, supports the Preparing for Adulthood programme and is designed to equip our pupils for life beyond Riverside, wherever that may be.

Next year

We currently have 353 pupils over four sites and we will be increasing by one class at Riverside Phoenix in the new term. As we plan for governance in the coming academic year, we have agreed to continue to focus on the four priorities listed overleaf, as well as the ten pledges in our School Development Plan.

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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