

Annual Governance Statement 2017-18

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Marland School Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Executive Principal to account for the educational performance of the school;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

<p>Governance arrangements</p>	<p>The Governing Body of Marland School was re-constituted in 2015 and is currently made up of 2 staff governors (including the Executive Principal), 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 2 Foundation Governors and 3 Co-opted governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. On our Governing Body one of the Co-opted governors is our highly experienced Chair, one is an ex-MOD senior officer HR specialist and one is a senior member of our residential care staff.</p> <p>The full Governing Body meets at least twice each term (more frequently if need dictates). Supporting this we have 'Lead Governors' who have respective responsibility for Safeguarding, Teaching & Learning, Residential Care and Finance & HR. In addition, there are committees that meet if required to consider student discipline and staffing matters. See 'Structure of Marland School Governing Body' summary document for a full list of Governors and their allocated responsibilities.</p>
<p>Attendance record of governors</p>	<p>Governors generally have very good attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). See 'Governor Attendance' document for a summary of Governors attendance at meetings.</p>
<p>The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body</p>	<p>The Governing Body has had a particularly busy year, focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continued school improvement. • a very 'Good' joint Ofsted inspection of both our education and residential facilities in November 2016. • financial readjustment to meet the ongoing demands of our limited public sector commissioned funding

- the resultant financially driven move to convert from 7 day termly to 5 day weekly residential status from September 2017 following a major residential staff restructure the previous term.
- a combined rebuild / refurbishment of the residential buildings / facilities on our residential school site.

The Safeguarding Lead Governor (Mrs Butler), supported by the newly trained support Lead Governor (Mrs Martin) advised Governors and led on the monitoring of the following:

- Liaising on a regular basis with our Designated Safeguarding Officers (Mrs Lee, Mr MacIver and Mr McAuley)
- the HR team to monitor key safeguarding requirements such as the 'Single Central Record' and staff recruitment files.
- the 'Online Safety Coordinator' (Mr Davage) to ensure that all aspects of 'Online Safety' remain safe and compliant.

The Teaching & Learning Lead Governor (Mrs Martin) advised Governors and led on the monitoring of the following:

- a review of the general curriculum on a subject by subject basis to ensure appropriate relevance to student interests and needs, including their special needs and to ensure appropriate challenge.
- key data giving the results of student progress, achievement and attainment, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for each individual student on a personalised basis.
- monitoring our "vulnerable groups" of students with a focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes.

The Finance & HR Lead Governor (Mr Ley) advised Governors and led on the monitoring of the following:

- how the school should use its budget most effectively and cost efficiently.
- the ongoing maintenance and development of the school premises.
- early in the summer term 2017, the Governors approved the 2017/18 budget plan for the school. Following the financially necessary residential care restructure and recent expansion in Day School student numbers the school remains in a financially viable / stable position for the following year. The volatility of such a 'Maintained Special School' that does not have the remit to set its funding income nor fully control its student admissions, means that this continues to be an aspect of major challenge. Governors continue to monitor this closely with the aim to ensure ongoing financial stability whilst balancing this with the need to adequately resource the school to meet the significant and often complex special needs of its student cohort.

	<p>The Residential Care Lead Governor (Mr Spencer) advised Governors and led on the monitoring of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• acting as a Governing Body support link / moderator, in addition to the school commissioned Residential Care Independent Visitor (Dr Farmer).• all aspects associated with ensuring that the residential care offered by the school continued to be fully appropriate and improve and met all Ofsted National Minimum Standards.• Providing a direct link to the Governing Body for the residential students and staff. <p>Additional full Governing Body regular responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• reviewing and agreeing school policies on a rolling cycle to ensure that they remain up to date, legally compliant and good practice.• Regularly reviewing the strategic direction of the school to ensure that ongoing need is fully met. <p>Part 1 Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents. You can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of these minutes of our meetings.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>Our 4 key priorities for the forthcoming year are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. sustaining the hard work by governors, staff and students to ensure that standards (educational, pastoral, safeguarding, etc.) continue to improve to maximise learning opportunities, progress, achievement, attainment and positive transition outcomes for each and every Marland student.2. the expansion of our Day School (numbers and age range)3. the significant anticipated re-development of our residential site, in particular the students' residential living accommodation.4. retaining a stable budget whilst providing appropriate resource levels that meet the holistic needs of our students.
<p>How you can contact the governing body</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Butler, via the Clerk to Governors Mrs Larkworthy at the main school site:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">01805 601324</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b.larkworthy@marland.devon.sch.uk</p>