



Annual Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Thomas Tallis Secondary School 2019/20

Governance Arrangements

The full governing body meets four times a year. There are also three committees that meet on a regular basis – Learning and Achievement, Inclusion, and Resources. The governing board has regular Saturday morning strategy sessions which are also attended by members of the school leadership team. The governing board has a Pay and Pay Appeals Committee which meets annually. When necessary a Deficit Recovery Group, consisting of a small subset of appointed governors, meets to consider proposals for cost savings and fund raising.

Full governing board meetings and all committee meetings are professionally clerked, and approved minutes are maintained and can be found on the school website (governor pages). Each committee has its own Terms of Reference.

Governors are also linked to areas or aspects of the school. Details can be found on the school website governor pages.

The governing board agrees a schedule of visits to the school which link with priority issues in the School Improvement Plan. Governors who visit the school provide a written report which is shared with the governing board.

A list of governing board members is available on the school website together with their individual responsibilities. Governors have a wide spread of knowledge and expertise and are part of the committees which best utilise their skills.

Attendance at meetings is very good and an attendance grid is available on the school website.

**Key issues
addressed by the
governing board
2019-20**

The governing board has fulfilled its statutory duties in terms of monitoring all areas of the school's work and offering support and challenge through the agreed agendas of each committee and the agendas of full governing body meetings. Some of the areas covered during the year were:

- Rigorous School Plan – input from a variety of stakeholders and a monitoring cycle to ensure there is impact against priority areas.
- Monitoring the use of Pupil Premium funding (statement available on the school website).
- Review of statutory policies and ensuring that the school website complies with statutory requirements for information disclosure.
- Monitoring of pupil progress across the school and ensuring there is a broad offer of curriculum reflecting the diversity of students at Tallis.
- Supporting and challenging the school in its change back to a three-year Key Stage 3.
- Reinstatement of the post of Assistant Head for Teaching and Learning as well as appointment of a Deputy Head.
- Providing governance support through chairing and membership of appeals and disciplinary panels.
- Application of the Ethical Leadership Framework to all areas of governance.
- Support and challenge around the improvement of the teaching provision outside mainstream school through TOFFS (Tallis Offers a Fresh Start) and ensuring a route back to mainstream school.
- Support for the Inclusion strategy incorporating use of the Reflection Room as part of a continued focus on student's mental health.
- Ensuring that the school provided the appropriate level of focus on High Prior Attainers.
- Supporting the introduction of the Year 11 'XFN' strategy to focus on potential under-performers at GCSE.
- Supporting through the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown in March 2020 with scrutiny of Risk Assessments.
- Helping the school manage costs in a difficult environment for budgeting and forecasting ensuring 'best value'.

**Assessment of
Impact**

Governors provide a high level of support and challenge to the Head Teacher and the school. They consider a range of documents and data provided by the school in order to judge the impact of strategies within the school. Governor responsibilities in relation to Head Teacher Performance Management are carried out stringently.

Governors visit the school to meet with staff to gain a greater understanding of the school and the on-going requirement to raise standards. The Schools' Improvement Adviser provides notes of their visits which are considered at governing board meetings.

Governors monitor finance stringently to ensure the school's budget is spent to achieve the best possible outcomes for students.

Future plans for the governing board

The governing board will continue its work in line with the government agenda.

Governors will continue to work with school leaders to improve progress at GCSE.

The governing board will consider plans for Post 16 to alleviate the pressure of numbers and the impact on costs.

The governing board will continue its work to embed the values and virtues of the Ethical Leadership framework through governance practices.

The governing board will support and challenge the school over its plans for online learning during the pandemic.

The governing board will support and challenge the school in relation to its implementation of Teacher Assessed Grading for the 2021 GCSEs and A-Levels.

The governing body will scrutinise the school's strategy and proposals in relation to the decolonisation of the school curriculum.

The governing board is keen to further partnership with other schools to enhance working practices such as a collaborative catering contract with neighbouring LA schools.

Contact Details

The governing board welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors (Charles Duckworth) c/o the school.

*Charles
Duckworth
23.3.21*