



The Heights Primary School

Nick Walden

Chair of Governors

This is an updated (October 2015) version of the presentation given
at the Governors' Annual Meeting for Parents in July 2015

What is a Free School?

- A free school is an academy
- An academy is an independent non-fee paying publicly funded school operating within the state sector
- Academies are also charitable companies limited by guarantee.
- They normally own (or lease) their own land and employ their own staff, subject to stringent rules laid down by the DfE

What is the Structure of the Heights?

There are two layers of corporate structure:

- The Academy Trust comprising the eight people who collaborated to set up the school ('the Trust Members'). The Trust Members are the guarantors of the company, analogous to shareholders in a normal limited company but they are not 'trustees'.
- The Governing Body, equivalent to the Board of Directors of a limited company, entrusted with responsibility for running the school. Governors are also trustees of the charitable trust.

The Role of the Academy Trust

- Ultimately responsible to the Department for Education for the correct use of public funds and provision of a quality level of education
- Holding the governing body to account, to ensure that the objectives of the Trust are met;
- Appointing new governors where necessary;
- Liaison with EFA to deliver best possible permanent site for the school.

The Role of the Governors

- Implementing the vision of the Academy Trust;
- Ensuring the quality of education provision;
- Challenging and monitoring the performance of the school, acting as a critical friend to the Headteacher;
- Managing the school's finances and risks;
- Ensuring that the school is operated in line with its Funding Agreement and complies with charity and company law;
- Appointing staff and reviewing staff performance and pay, in conjunction with the Headteacher.

Composition of Governing Body

- Regulated by the Constitution of the Academy Trust and by agreement between the Trust Members and the Governors
- Maximum of 12 but only 8 to be appointed in foreseeable future, comprising:
 - Headteacher;
 - 5 Governors appointed by Academy Trust;
 - 2 Parent Governors elected by parents/carers.
- Last PG vacancy filled October 2015.

Who We Are

- Nick Walden (Chair)
- Matt Gale (Vice Chair & Trust Member);
- Karen Edwards (Headteacher);
- Jane Borgeaud;
- Linda Glithro;
- Barnaby Smith (Parent Governor, elected 2015);
- Esme Tipaldy (Parent Governor, elected 2014);
- Winnie Wang.

What we have done during 2014/15.....

- Met formally 19 times in the evenings or early mornings!
- Made informal visits to the school and attended events & trips;
- Set the School's initial attainment targets and monitored progress;
- Approved the School's first yearly School Development Plan and that for 2015/16;
- Set the School Budgets for both 2014/15 and 2015/16;
- Set up and reviewed all the school operating procedures;
- Appointed outside contractors and consultants (eg auditors);
- Appointed (with HT) staff for expansion of school;
- Arranged (with Academy Trust) for expansion of the temporary site.

Link Governors

Individual governors assigned to monitor critical elements:

- Safeguarding – Linda Glithro;
- Special Educational Needs – Winnie Wang;
- Educational Visit – Linda Glithro;
- Health & Safety – Nick Walden

What we plan to do this academic year.....

- Set strategic (5 year) targets for the school;
- Implement and monitor the School Development Plan (and targets) for 2015/16, and set them for 2016/17;
- Monitor the School budget for 2015/16 and set it for 2016/17;
- Arrange the election of an additional parent governor (now complete);
- Oversee expansion of temporary site;
- Input to the detailed design of the permanent site;
- Prepare for Ofsted Inspection Autumn 2016....

AND, most importantly.....

Manage the move of the school to its permanent site, and run it successfully thereafter!