



The Governing Body of The Wren School Review of our work in 2015-16

Thank you for visiting the Governor section of The Wren School website. Here you will find our pen portraits, our roles, terms of office and declarations of interest. The governing body was appointed by The Wren School Academy Trust (SAT) on 8th June 2015, before the school opened to 73 Year 7 students on 7th September 2015, growing to 81 students by the year end. Shown below is a short review of our achievements in the year ended 31st August 2016.

We look forward to meeting you at one of the many school events, and hope that you enjoy your connection with our school. We are delighted with the overwhelmingly positive feedback from students and parents since the school has opened, and we will continue to seek the views of all the school community as part of our review of school improvement. We would like to pay tribute to the outstanding commitment that Mrs Broadhead and all her staff made during this very challenging year.

Julia Cottee
Chair of Governors

20th October 2016

What do we do?

The governing body works alongside the headteacher and the senior leaders to support and challenge their work. We are responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. We aim to ensure that children are attending a successful school that provides them with a good education and supports their well-being. Governors of academies have three core strategic functions:

1. Establishing (together with the trust's members) the strategic direction of the school.
2. Ensuring accountability throughout the school.
3. Ensuring financial probity.

Our attendance at meetings

Meeting	Date	Grant Abbott	Mark Barrett Health & Safety	Jo Broadhead Headteacher	Bob Burrowes Development	Ruth Carney Inclusion	Julia Cottee Chair	Jackie John Vice Chair	Anne Lancaster	Sheila Loy Safeguarding	Stuart McNaught	Matt Thoreau
Full Governing Body	10-09-2015	N/A	Y	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N
Staff Appraisal & Pay	06-10-2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A
Full Governing Body	08-10-2015	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A
Teaching & Learning	27-11-2015	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A
Resources	02-12-2015	N	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A
Full Governing Body	17-12-2015	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	N	N/A
Extraordinary Full Governing Body	15-01-2016	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N	Y	N/A
Resources	21-01-2016	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	N	N/A
Teaching & Learning	28-01-2016	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A
Full Governing Body	03-03-2016	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N	N	N/A
Governor Day	09-03-2016	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N	N	N/A
Resources	17-03-2016	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	N/A
Full Governing Body	05-05-2016	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A
Premises Walk	12-05-2016	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N	N/A	N/A
Teaching & Learning	26-05-2016	N/A	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A
Resources	16-06-2016	Y	N	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Strategic Planning	23-06-2016	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N	N/A	N/A
Staff Appraisal & Pay	28-06-2016	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Resources	07-07-2016	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Full Governing Body	14-07-2016	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A

Strategic Function of Governance	Challenges and Achievements	Review of our Effectiveness
<p>Establishing (together with the trust's members) the strategic direction of the school</p>	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflected on identified strategic risks and taken steps to mitigate them; • contributed towards setting the School Development Plan for 2016-17; • reported regularly to the SAT on progress made towards strategic targets; • established a working party with the members and the staff to explore future options for the school as part of a Multi Academy Trust; • collaborated with the delivery design team for the temporary and permanent buildings to ensure that our accommodation supports our vision; • helped to promote the school as a local school for the local community. 	<p>We consider our overall effectiveness in this area to be Outstanding*.</p> <p>Next year we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make a decision regarding the future of the school as part of a Multi Academy Trust; • continue to secure high student admission numbers; • ensure that the school continues to demonstrate the values espoused in its vision and values statement.
<p>Ensuring accountability throughout the school</p>	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • established governor links with curriculum leaders; • attended training which enables us to develop our confidence and experience in our roles; • recruited more governors and associate members to give the GB a breadth of skills which allows us to operate as effectively as possible; • approved the staffing plan for 2016-17 and supported the headteacher with recruitment, specifically with regard to senior staff; • sought to ease the pressure on the workload of the headteacher, teachers and support staff; • made use of external quality assurance and triangulation evidence to moderate the quality of education delivered; • acted on the data given to us, to support and challenge school leaders; • sought to provide clear guidelines which promote responsible behaviour from every member of the school community; 	<p>We consider our overall effectiveness in this area to be Good*.</p> <p>Next year we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop governor links with curriculum leaders and support them as departments and workloads grow; • continue to recruit more governors to give the GB a breadth of skills which allows us to operate as effectively as possible; • approve the staffing plan for 2017-18 and support the headteacher with recruitment, specifically with regard to senior staff; • continue to attend training which enables us to develop our confidence and experience in our roles; • continue to make use of external quality assurance and triangulation evidence to moderate the quality of education delivered;

Strategic Function of Governance	Challenges and Achievements	Review of our Effectiveness
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • been visible throughout the school community, attending school functions and building lasting relationships with staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that the staffing levels adequately support senior leaders to fulfil their roles, given normal budgetary constraints; • continue to act on the data given to us, to support and challenge school leaders; • continue to be visible throughout the school community; • receive training on the new assessment system, in order to systematically challenge senior leaders to secure excellent outcomes for each student.
Ensuring financial probity	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • started to establish a detailed set of financial procedures; • appointed a Responsible Officer to fulfil the internal audit function; • continued to stringently monitor financial performance against budget; • considered value for money, performed some financial benchmarking; • explored opportunities to collaborate with other schools' finance teams; • developed those governors who are less experienced in scrutinising and challenging schools' finances so that they can contribute towards the impact of the governing body. 	<p>We consider our overall effectiveness in this area to be Good with Outstanding features*.</p> <p>Next year we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete the detailed set of financial procedures; • identify relevant opportunities to perform financial benchmarking exercises to determine if we are achieving the best value for money; • explore further opportunities to collaborate in future procurement; • support procurement for major contracts such as cleaning and catering; • consider our audit processes to ensure that they provide best value; • investigate potential revenue opportunities.

*** KEY**

For each of the categories in the above table, the available judgements are: Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. These judgements are in line with the Ofsted framework (August 2016).