



Trust Board Report to Parent/Carers

Welcome to the Trust Board report for 2022/23. This is our second report to parents and carers and we hope that you find it informative. This year we really wanted to highlight how we have been working as a Trust Board to ensure that every child in every one of our schools gets the best possible education and so we have invited the Chairs of some of our committees to share with you the areas they have been focussing on this academic year.

Standards Committee – Chair – Val Arbon

The work of the Standards Committee is wide ranging but has its focus largely on the monitoring of the children's progress and attainment, including a consideration of how individual groups are doing, particularly in comparison to others at a national level, such as girls, boys, those with special educational needs/disabilities, and those deemed 'disadvantaged'. The Standards Committee also looks at what the schools are doing to improve themselves. This is summarised in a number of key development action plans. These improvement actions are guided by regular reports, received by the Standards Committee, from an external School Improvement Partner who visits the individual schools and looks at specific aspects of the curriculum. In addition, Trustees make regular visits to the schools to learn about key initiatives. These visits are titled 'Learning Walks' and in 2022/23 learning walks looked at SEND provision at Canford Heath Infants, Writing at Haymoor Junior, Forest School provision at Ad Astra Infants, and phonics teaching at Canford Heath Junior.

Across the academic year of 2022/23 the Standards Committee have also looked in depth at:

- Pupil targets for the end of the academic year 2023. Progress towards these are reported at regular intervals to the committee across the year.*
- Attendance. Is attendance high, or are there large numbers of pupils persistently absent? The committee receive regular reports from the Trust's Home Academy Liaison Officer (HALO), Lesley Specterman.*
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). The Trust is blessed with Natalie Brown, an excellent leader and practitioner in this area. The committee has considered many detailed and thorough policies/reports presented by Natalie on arrangements in place for SEND. The Standards Board have also considered the proposed arrangements for a new Speech and Language Resource Base, planned to be sited at both Canford Heath Infant and Junior.*

· Consideration of Ofsted and the expectations placed on schools to meet standards. The Trust was delighted when Canford Heath Infants received a judgement of 'Outstanding' in March.

Finance, Audit and Staffing Committee – Chair – Paul Squire

The work of the Finance, Audit and Staffing committee focuses on these three core elements which broadly touches all the work of the Trust as a whole. The committee is fully focused on decision making to the benefit of our children first, alongside the legal and statutory requirements that the Trust must adhere to.

This year has been very busy with continued need to focus on the financial regularity and budget scrutiny; the continued finance provision to operate the schools within the Trust this year as well as reviewing and scrutinising investment cases.

The Committee has continued to fully support the education provision financially and support many essential areas that required specific funding this year including;

- Purchase and installation electronic screens in all the classrooms
- Completion of robust safety fencing across the schools
- Improving worn outside areas within Ad Astra Infant School making this a better play and learning environment for our children.
- Ensuring two mini buses continue to be available to the Trust through a challenging supply chain disruption.
- Condition surveys across the fabric of our school buildings to assess for ongoing repairs, replacement and renewals in order to keep our schools fully operational for our children.

Staff wellbeing is a continued top priority for the Trust, this year we have introduced a Long Service Award to recognise and celebrate the dedicated service from our staff across our Trust which we are always thankful for.

Compliance and Pupil Safeguarding Panel – Chair – Sean Frampton

The work of the Compliance and Pupil Safeguarding Panel provides the oversight and monitoring of matters that concern the safeguarding of the children that attend our schools and matters that relate to the compliance of health and safety legislation and premises management within the Trust.

During the 2022-23 academic year the panel has; -

Overseen the introduction of revised Trust pupil safeguarding policies, these policies follow National guidance and best practice.

Received updates from the Designated Safeguarding Trustee as to how the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCo) are implementing these policies, including any BCP lead safeguarding audit outcomes.

Overseen the Premises Management Plan, the introduction of revised Health and Safety policies and the termly Health and Safety Workplace Inspections, advising the Finance Committee of any requirements for funding of projects, outside of the Trust premises capital plan, to ensure that the building and grounds are safe for the pupils, staff and visitors, including the replacement of the boundary fence around CHIS and CHJS and making sure that there was a safe place for the children at Ad Astra to play outside.

Requested a review of the Food Standards action plan, establishing the whole food culture within the Trust, not only looking at the nutrition and variety available with our school meals but looking at the food provided for Breakfast and Buddy Clubs.

In line with the Government's White paper to deliver at least 32.5 hours a week for all schools, has overseen the consultation with key stakeholders and following the consultation advised the Trust Board to implement, in September 2023, the plan identified by the CEO.

Assisted in the establishment of the Forest School Nature Trail at CHIS.

Worked with the CEO to oversee the cleaning contract in an effort to improve the cleaning standards within our schools by working closely with our cleaning provider. Trustees want to ensure that the schools that our children learn in are a safe and clean environment to do so.

Received regular reports on the 'compliance' of each school's and the Trust's websites, which was also confirmed by the Ofsted inspection at CHIS by the Inspector.

Main Trust Board – Chair – Emma Hall

The TEACH Multi Academy Trust Board has overall accountability and responsibility for the management of TEACH Trust; it is the decision-making body of the Trust.

The Trust Board is made up of 12 Trustees, including the CEO of the Trust, parents, community and co-opted representatives. The Trust Board is also attended by the Headteachers of all schools, as well as the Finance and Standards Leads, plus any other staff member that may be required for a specific agenda item.

The Trust Board has three core functions;

- 1) ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- 2) hold the CEO to account for the educational performance of the schools and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- 3) oversee the financial performance of the schools and make sure that money is well spent

The Trust Board is the key strategic decision maker, but delegates certain responsibilities to the CEO, and in accordance with the Academy Trust's scheme of delegation, the Finance and Standards committees. Decisions are made in the best interests of the pupils, and are based on evidence and the needs of key stakeholders. The Trust Board is strategic and does not get involved in operational matters, but does hold the CEO to account for exercising professional judgement in these matters and all of their other duties.

Significant debate and detailed scrutiny often occurs in the committees and sub-committees of the Trust. Minutes of these meetings are presented to the Trust Board so that all Trustees have an awareness of discussions and decisions made in committees that they don't attend, plus the opportunity to ask questions. Committees will sometimes debate an issue and then bring a recommendation to the Trust Board for ratification by all Trustees. Decisions made in a typical meeting could involve reviewing and setting the 3-year strategic plan, signing off the annual budget, agreeing Trust policies (e.g. behaviour, complaints), reviewing the risk register, scrutinising data (e.g. end of key stage results, attendance), agreeing new term dates and deciding whether a student can start school a year later than the standard age of entry.

For further information on TEACH, please see our Trust website at <https://www.teachpoole.com/>