



BRAMHALL HIGH SCHOOL

FULL GOVERNING BOARD

HANDBOOK

UPDATED **MAY 2025**

WELCOME TO BRAMHALL HIGH SCHOOL

The purpose of this Handbook is to provide you, as a governor of Bramhall High School, with a basic understanding of your particular roles and responsibilities within the school. The Handbook is not a comprehensive resource nor does it overly duplicate large amounts of information to be found elsewhere but we hope it gives you some confidence to exercise your role as a governor as effectively as possible.

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THE FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board exists to promote the interests of the school and its students and to act as its advocate. Its core function is to:

- ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
- hold the Headteacher to account regarding the performance of the school, the students and the performance management of the staff
- ensure sound, proper and effective use of school finance resources

In exercising these functions, the Governing Board shall:

- act with integrity, objectivity and honesty in the best interests of Bramhall High School
- be open about the decisions it makes and the actions it takes and in particular be prepared to explain decisions and actions to interested parties

The Headteacher's responsibility includes:

- the internal organisation, management and control of the school
- the educational performance of the school.

ABOUT BRAMHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Having a good understanding of the school and its day-to-day activities is important background and context to the formal governors' meetings. There are three main ways in which governors can find out more about the school than what is discussed in Governing Board meetings.

Firstly, the school website. This will provide you with information on all aspects of school. Please do look at it, it is easy to navigate and will provide you with lots of information as well as bringing to life the excitement, commitment and achievements of the staff and students.

Secondly, school visits. All governors are linked to an area of the curriculum, specific improvement priority or pastoral lead. It is expected that governors will meet with the relevant member of staff once a term.

Thirdly, attending school events. The school puts on many functions and events e.g. music concerts, presentation evenings. Governors are encouraged to attend these as, again, they provide invaluable insight beyond the formal meeting structure and also show the governors' support for students, staff and parents. It is not possible to put into words the buzz, which is characteristic of these activities, but the students will make you proud to be associated with the school.

If you are a new governor, we offer a range of support to help you settle into the role and be clear about what it entails. For those with no previous experience of

governance in schools we would expect you to attend Stockport Local Authority's Governor Training course. (This course, covering all aspects of being a governor, is usually delivered in two 2 hour sessions which are offered as daytime or evening options. Details can be found on SLA Online, see below). For all new governors the Headteacher will arrange a visit to the school during the working day so that you can look around, begin to meet staff and students and get a 'feel' for Bramhall High School. All new governors are asked to complete a Skills Audit, which helps the Governing Board know where its skills and strengths are, and where there are development needs to cover any gaps. It is not expected, of course, that any governor will have skills or experience in each of the areas covered by the skills audit, it is a tool to help map expertise across the full Governing Board.

ABOUT THE GOVERNING BOARD AT BRAMHALL HIGH SCHOOL

At Bramhall High School, we are constituted, as required by legislation, to have:

2 elected Parent Governors

11 Co-opted Governors

1 Local Authority governor (not necessarily LA appointed)

1 Staff Governor

1 Head teacher

In addition, the Board may choose to recruit Associate Governors who are fully included in its work but do not have voting rights.

Half the number of governors in post are required to ensure full Governing Board meetings are quorate. Unusually it might be necessary for a governor not chairing a particular meeting to attend by either telephone or video link. The policy for virtual meeting attendance can be found on SLA Online (see below).

Governors in our school are attached as a link governor to individual departments. In addition, some governors will be members of specific sub committees e.g. pay, or will attend working groups, for example finance. Governors may also be the named link support for a particular year or particular aspect of the school, for example, year 10, SEND, Wellbeing.

All governors will have access to the Governor section of SLA Online. This is password protected and is the primary source of papers for meetings and other information relevant to the role. Here you can also access the local authority training on offer. In addition, the school website has a Governing Board tab where further information may be found.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT OF INDIVIDUAL GOVERNORS?

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for students.
- The inquisitiveness to question and analyse and a willingness to learn.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Be willing to promote meaningful and effective engagement with parents, staff and the wider community.
- Be committed to sharing in all roles required in an outstanding Governing Board.
- The time and inclination to fulfil the role adequately.
- Attend at least one evening school event each year (e.g. concert, awards evening, show, open evening).

WHAT SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE ARE REQUIRED OF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD?

Whilst recognising that members will have a variety of experience and skills, we need to ensure that across the membership of the Governing Board we have skills and experience in:

- budgeting and driving financial efficiency
- performance management and employment issues, including grievances
- teaching and learning and analysing performance data
- safeguarding
- strategic management
- marketing, community and effective communication.

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE BRAMHALL HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD

We would draw your attention to the Code of Practice for governors at Bramhall High School (Appendix 1). We expect all of us to adhere to it. In summary,

- all governors have equal status
- governors must observe complete confidentiality and should only speak or act on behalf of the Governing Board when they have been authorised to do so
- any decisions taken should be in the best interests of the school and not those of individuals or groups
- governors must be aware of, and at all times act within, the spirit of the Code of Practice
- governors should express views openly within meetings but accept collective decisions

- governors should not get involved in individual complaints. Any person with a complaint about the school should be directed to the School's Complaints Procedure.

Visiting the school whilst it is in operation is the best way a governor can learn about the school. The purpose of such visits is to reinforce the governor's monitoring role rather than being seen as an inspection exercise and as such governors should be mindful that they visit the school as guests and should sign in at reception and wear their security ID badge at all times. All visits should be at a mutually convenient time and should be planned carefully with an agreed focus. (Guidance for the topics to be covered can be found on page 21 and in Appendix 2). The Headteacher's PA should be notified of any visits and a note of visit should be completed.

OUR GOVERNING BOARD STRUCTURE

At Bramhall High School the Full Governing Board (FGB) meets 3 times a term. Each FGB meeting has a different focus to ensure that we strengthen our understanding and knowledge of the school to help us to lead its strategic direction. The pattern of meetings is as follows.

Autumn Term

- Full Governing Board 1 – Results/curriculum (Standards)
- Full Governing Board 2 – Business/resources/finance
- Full Governing Board 3 – Review of Term

Spring Term

- Full Governing Board 1 – Business/resources/finance
- Full Governing Board 2 - Student development/welfare (Standards)
- Full Governing Board 3 – Review of Term

Summer Term

- Full Governing Board 1 – Business/resources/finance
- Full Governing Board 2 – Standards
- Full Governing Board 3 – Review of Term

In addition, there are the following sub committees

- Agenda Setting Group (one per term)
- Budget Monitoring Group (one per term)
- Premises Management Group

- Pay Committee (Autumn Term)
- Pay Appeals Committee (Autumn Term if required)
- Headteacher's Performance Monitoring Committee (twice yearly)
- Student Discipline Committee (convened as required)

GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ALL SUB COMMITTEES

- The quorum for all sub committees is 3; the Governing Board determines the membership and remit of each committee.
- Associate members may be given limited voting rights when co-opted on to a committee.
- Working Parties can be established for a specific purpose. Once the task has been achieved the group ceases to exist.
- The chair of the committee, in liaison with the Headteacher or other member of the Senior Leadership Team, compiles an agenda for each meeting; this agenda should be circulated to all members at least 7 days prior to the meeting, with relevant documents via SLA Online.

Functions that cannot be delegated to committees include: constitution of the governing board, appointment or removal of the Chair/Vice-Chair, suspension of a governor, appointment of a clerk to the governing board, establishment/remits of committees, appointment of governors, decisions on the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education and decisions on the length of the school session.

FULL GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS

Topic focused FGB meetings take place as outlined below:

- Standards responsibilities
- Business, Finance and Premises responsibilities
- Personnel Responsibilities

STANDARDS RESPONSIBILITIES

Standards are reviewed termly to track, monitor and hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students.

Specifically, to

- ensure that the school promotes an ethos of high expectations for levels of achievement and behaviour for all learners and that this is communicated to students, parents and staff
- ensure that all staff have the appropriate skills and training to deliver a high-quality learning environment
- be aware of any issues which may affect standards and look to how these may be addressed
- monitor achievement and standards at school and subject level
- monitor achievement and standards by different groups, e.g. by gender, ethnicity, level of disadvantage, children in care, young carers and children with special educational needs
- monitor patterns of attendance and exclusions and to receive statistical information on any (un-named) student exclusions
- discuss, and recommend for approval, key targets
- monitor progress against targets
- be familiar with data
- monitor trends in the quality of teaching and learning through review of the outcomes of lesson observations
- help determine the format of reporting information about outcomes to the governors
- monitor the SDP (school development plan)
- ensure a broad and balanced curriculum is provided and ensure governors have a knowledge of how the curriculum is taught, evaluated and resourced
- receive reports on school innovations and how the school is responding to legislative requirements in the curriculum
- review policies on a regular basis and ensure staff are aware of the policies
- ensure that the requirements of students with SEND and looked-after children are met and to ensure that the school has a designated member of staff for co-ordinating child protection within school & liaising with other agencies
- review the school profile, prospectus and website
- review the provision for collective worship and RE
- review, after consultation with the Headteacher, staff, parents and students, policies on welfare, health & safety of students and the dress and appearance of students with due regard to their spiritual, moral, cultural & social well-being whilst encouraging opportunities for their personal development
- review the procedures for school journeys, visits and residential activities ensuring thorough risk assessments have taken place and policies have been reviewed on charging, remission and conduct of these visits
- ensure that racist incidents and incidents of physical intervention are recorded and reported to the LA

- consider ways of promoting the school in the community, developing positive links and providing extended services for the local community
- promote extra-curricular activities and assist the school when planning for any special events in school
- promote community cohesion and meet requirements of the national Prevent Strategy
- ensure governors have the opportunity to gain understanding of the curriculum taught
- ensure that students are provided with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

BUSINESS, FINANCE AND PREMISES RESPONSIBILITIES

The FGB meets to oversee the financial performance of the school making sure its money is well spent, including monitoring the condition of the school premises, considering options for building improvements and ensuring that the school complies with health and safety regulations.

Specifically, to

- ensure the school meets statutory requirements to publish online information
- review policies on a regular basis and ensure staff are aware of the policies
- advise the FGB on the budget plan and monitor variations to the original budget (ensuring governors are provided with up-to-date financial information)
- discuss the budget in accordance with school priorities (in line with the SDP) and the longer-term priorities of the school
- monitor regularly student numbers to assess the impact on future delegated budgets
- ensure that financial deadlines are met (i.e. approval of budget plan)
- undertake an annual review of all expenditure with a view to achieving 'Best Value' with regard to the delegated budget and to ensure that the school's financial performance is in line with the budget and to approve a Statement of Internal Control annually
- undertake an annual review of all sources of income to ensure fees and charges remain appropriate
- discuss options available to the school prior to the approval of continuation/cessation of contracts including LA Buy Back agreements
- recommend the level of delegation afforded to the Headteacher, Chair and the committee

- ensure that there is an annual audit of the school fund and monitor the expenditure of school funds
- ensure Business Interest Forms have been signed and dated by all governors (staff should be reminded to advise the Headteacher of any business interest and any interest should be noted)
- ensure that the budget set reflects salary increases through meeting objectives from the performance management process
- ensure any budget carry-overs are accounted for in terms of projected expenditure
- ensure staff CPD (Continuous Professional Development) remains a focus
- monitor the condition of the school premises and consider options for building improvements
- undertake an annual safety check of the school premises
- approve applications for the use of school premises
- ensure that the Governors' responsibilities regarding litter are discharged under the Environmental Protection Act 1990
- ensure that the school complies with health and safety regulations and ensure risk assessments are carried out regularly and the asbestos action plan is reviewed (if applicable)
- review insurance arrangements
- ensure that the school is properly accountable for the financial aspects of its performance (i.e. it deploys resources in line with priorities, achieves planned levels of financial performance, avoids incurring financial loss and waste, receives favourable assessments from internal audit and Ofsted)
- complete a self-evaluation of financial management competencies (SFVS).

Budget Monitoring Group

To fulfil our statutory duties more efficiently we also have a Budget Monitoring Group. The group comprises the Governors with expertise in finance matters and the Business Manager/s. It meets termly to monitor the budget in more detail than is possible in full board meetings. It reports to the full Governing Board termly meeting.

Premises Management Group

To fulfil our statutory duties more efficiently we also have a Premises Management Group. The group comprises the Governors with expertise in matters pertaining to the school buildings and environment and the Business Manager/s. It meets termly to

monitor the school environment in more detail than is possible in full board meetings. It reports to the full Governing Board termly meeting.

PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES

The FGB oversees the review of staffing structure, monitors the performance management of staff, reviews performance related pay and monitors appraisals and CPD (Continual Professional Development).

Specifically, to

- review the staffing structure/pay whenever a vacancy arises and review procedures for recruitment and selection ensuring that procedures are in place for managing staff levels (including re-deployment, early retirement, redundancy)
- ensure that the principles of safer recruitment are adhered to
- review the salaries of main scale teachers annually, and make recommendations
- make recommendations relating to the award of discretionary payments for temporary additional responsibility for the approval of the governing body
- ensure that the budget set reflects salary increases through meeting objectives from the performance management process
- ensure that all teaching staff and support staff are valued and receive proper recognition for their work and contribution to the school life
- Ensure CPD (Continuous Professional Development) remains a focus for staff training.

To meet statutory requirements there are a further 3 sub-committees covering personnel topics as follows:

Pay Committee

Pay Appeals Committee

Headteacher's Performance Monitoring Committee

Pay Committee

The purpose of the committee is to set the Pay Policy for the school and to implement the approved Pay Policy in respect of the pay for all staff.

Membership shall consist of at least three named members of the Governing Board, none of whom shall be employees or Associate Members. The Headteacher may

attend all proceedings of the Pay Committee for the purposes of providing information and advice.

Its function is to:

- determine the Pay Policy for the school
- advise the Full Governing Board on current and future pay levels
- ratify appropriate salary ranges and starting salaries for members of the leadership group
- ratify annual pay progress for teachers as set out in the Pay Policy, taking account of any recommendations made on the Performance Management review statement, in accordance with the approved Pay Policy
- approve applications to be paid on the Upper Pay Range
- approve annual pay progress for the Headteacher, taking account of the recommendation made by the Headteacher's Performance Review Panel, following the annual review
- determine the application of national inflationary increases as required
- monitor and report to the full Governing Board on the annual pattern of performance pay progression at each level and the correlation between pay progression, quality of teaching and outcomes for students.

Pay Appeals Committee

The function of the Pay Appeals Committee is to deal with all appeals against pay decisions in accordance with the Appeals Procedures set out in the Pay Policy.

The Pay Appeals Committee shall consist of at least three named members of the Full Governing Board, none of whom shall be employees or Associate members or members of the Pay Committee. The Headteacher may attend all proceedings of the Pay Appeals Committee for the purpose of providing information and advice.

Head teacher's Performance Monitoring Committee

Governors are responsible for reviewing Head teacher performance and should appoint three individuals from the Full Governing Board to act as the performance review committee. This committee is charged with:

- reviewing and evaluating the Headteacher's performance
- setting new objectives
- agreeing and implementing arrangements for monitoring against objectives.

The committee makes recommendations on the Headteacher's pay based on the statutory provision within the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document.

The role of the externally appointed School Improvement Partner is to provide advice to the performance review committee on how to evaluate the performance of the Headteacher and on the most suitable objectives for the coming year. This involves:

- discussion with the Headteacher about their performance
- discussion with the review committee to help them review performance and consider new objectives
- advising governors of the monitoring procedure.

Agenda Setting group

The Committee comprises the Governing Board Chair and Vice Chair, and members of the Governing Board with expertise in the areas of Finance and Standards, together with the Headteacher. It meets termly to identify the priorities for the term, identifying any deadlines, delegating any actions required and discussing agenda items for the FGB for the coming term. The group also aims to identify areas of development for the Governing Board.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS OUTSIDE THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Governors have a major role outside the main committee structure. These are as follows.

- A Governor lead for specific areas of school work:
 - Pupil Premium Students
 - SEND and Inclusion
 - Health and Safety
 - Governor Development
 - Safeguarding, Attendance, Wellbeing, Child Protection, Looked after Children and Young Carers
 - Cyber Security
 - Specific year groups
 - Pastoral
 - Careers

- Subject Link Governors. This role is vital. By visiting and building a relationship with a department a Governor can become familiar with the work of the department and provide a degree of challenge and support from an external perspective.
- Student Discipline committee – formed, when required, of any 3 governors to review the decision to exclude a student, training is available through Governor Hub.
- An executive role including appeals, grievances, conduct reviews, interviewing and appointment of a new head teacher when necessary.

PUPIL PREMIUM GOVERNOR

The Pupil Premium Link Governor's remit focuses on ensuring the effective allocation and impact of pupil premium funding, with a primary goal of narrowing the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers. This involves understanding the purpose and distribution of pupil premium, monitoring how it's spent, and evaluating its impact on the targeted students.

The governor with responsibility for pupil premium will:

- report on the school's progress in using the pupil premium effectively to the Full Governing Board on a regular basis
- participate in an annual review, including discussions with staff, pupils and parents
- should challenge school leaders on how the pupil premium is used and hold them accountable for the outcomes achieved
- review the implementation of the pupil premium policy
- ensure governors are involved in decisions about how the pupil premium funding is spent
- keep up to date with research and changes in relation to the pupil premium and disadvantaged children.

SEND and INCLUSION GOVERNOR

The purpose of the role is to:

- assist and advise the Governing Board on fulfilling its responsibilities towards students with Special Educational Needs and /or Disabilities (SEND)
- ensure the school is compliant with the diversity and equality legislation especially those aspects that relate to identified groups that are vulnerable to underachievement

- ensure that the school has an equality statement and equality objectives to comply with the Equality Act 2010. To ensure that SEND students have access to the curriculum and that resources are used appropriately
- liaise with the School SEND co-ordinator
- have an overview of the provision for vulnerable groups - funding availability, school provision, student progression/performance
- ensure that the SEND policy is up to date
- monitor the implementation of the SEND Policy in school and in terms of its links to the School Improvement Plan, ensuring the necessary provisions are made for students with SEND
- ensure that the Governing Board is kept up to date with changes both locally and nationally for SEND students
- ensure the school considers the needs of learners with chronic or long term medical conditions alongside other vulnerable groups and are doing all they can to safeguard and support this potentially vulnerable group of learners
- be satisfied that any identified groups of learners achieve as well as other groups given their starting points.

HEALTH AND SAFETY GOVERNOR

Our Governing Board responsibilities include the monitoring of the school's organisation, arrangements and performance regarding the health and safety of employees, students and other people such as parents, visitors and contractors. It is not required that the Health and Safety Governor be a specialist or expert in health and safety matters. The responsibility for such matters remains with the entire Governing Board as a whole and is not devolved onto the designated governor.

Common matters of health & safety for monitoring at schools (in no set order of priority) include the following:

- inspection/audit tours of the school's premises and equipment
- appropriate maintenance and checking of items such as electrical appliances and installation
- risk assessments for various activities and situations, including teaching and support tasks and glazing safety
- educational visits and journeys
- measures for health and safety emergencies, including procedures and contacts

- transport used by school, including coaches, minibuses and private cars
- actions after and recording and reporting of accidents and 'near misses'
- First Aid arrangements
- observance of Asbestos Management Plan by schools whose buildings contain asbestos materials
- preventative and reactive fire precautions
- appropriate health and safety training for employees
- observance and review of health and safety policies.

As part of the monitoring role it is appropriate for the designated governor to:

- discuss relevant matters with the Headteacher and/or other managers, teaching and support staff
- see and review documents such as risk assessments, accident reports and relevant correspondence
- give regular updates about health and safety matters at Full Governing Board meetings.

Guidance, advice and support is available from various sources including:

- guidance documents about various matters from Services to People, plus publications by HSE and DfE
- Stockport Council's team of professional advisers in occupational safety and health. Specialists in school health and safety and can meet designated governors at their schools by arrangement
- training sessions organised by Stockport Governor Services.

DEVELOPMENT GOVERNOR

The purpose of the role is to:

- identify the skills and training needs of the Governing Board
- be aware of new governor appointments to induct new governors
- appoint a mentor for new governors if required
- ensure the Chairperson welcomes the new governor at his/her first meeting
- ensure that new governors receive a welcome pack and that they are aware of the New Governor Training programme

- ensure regular completion of the skills audit for all new and existing governors
- encourage and develop a reflective ethos for the Governing Board to assist in maximising its effectiveness
- ensure progression of the Governing Board Development Plan and that the required number of governors are appropriately trained in the areas in which they have expressed an interest
- encourage governor colleagues to attend training courses
- monitor attendance on training courses to enable information to be disseminated to the Full Governing Board
- attend governor development workshops
- if required, support the Governor Review process for the Governing Board.

SAFEGUARDING, ATTENDANCE, WELLBEING, CHILD PROTECTION, LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG CARERS GOVERNOR

The purpose of the role is to:

- act as a critical friend to the school for all issues relating to Safeguarding, Attendance, Wellbeing, Child Protection, Looked After Children and Young Carers, ensuring that the appropriate systems and procedures are in place to cover all aspects of the safeguarding agenda
- monitor the training records of the school to ensure compliance
- ensure that interviewing panels are convened appropriately, that safer recruitment practices are followed and that the single central record/identity checks are maintained
- verify that the school has done all it can to inform its community of its responsibility to promote the welfare of students and keep them safe
- take account of how safe students feel when they are in school
- have responsibility for your own training and development needs to ensure that you are skilled for the role of Wellbeing Governor.

The evidence that needs to be seen includes:

- policies and school website information
- commitment posters in school
- information posted around school confirming the identity of the designated person
- how internal records are maintained
- how cases are monitored, though the governor will not have access to individual case.

Looked After Children and Young Carer Responsibilities

Looked After Children (sometimes known as Children in Care) and Young Carers are amongst the most vulnerable groups of young people in our school. The core purpose of this role is to act as champion for these groups of young people.

Looked After Children

The purpose of the role is to:

- ensure that the school fulfils its statutory responsibility in appointing an appropriately qualified designated teacher for Looked After Children (Children in Care)
- ensure that the designated teacher has access to appropriate training to fulfil their role and meet their statutory responsibilities
- monitor the effectiveness of the designated teacher by ensuring that the school has a clear overview of the educational needs and progress of looked after children on roll; that the school's policies are effective in reflecting the needs of looked after children and that resources are allocated to support the designated teacher to carry out this role effectively for the benefit of looked after children
- ensure that (as a minimum) governors receive an annual report from the designated teacher (the report should not mention individual students by name)
- ensure that the Governing Board and school leadership team consider what picture the information in the report is providing and what needs to be done to address any issues raised by the report
- ensure that in addition to considering and acting on the annual report, the Governing Board should make sure that there are arrangements in place to keep themselves informed about provision for, and attainment of, looked after children on the school's roll on a more regular basis.

Young Carers

The purpose of the role is to:

- ensure the school adopts the policy for Young Carers
- ensure that the Young Carer's Charter is signed and displayed prominently in school
- To ensure the school appoints a senior member of the school staff to be the designated lead for Young Carers

- receive regular updates (via the Headteacher's termly report) on activities in school that identify and support the welfare, achievement and attainment of young carers as a vulnerable group.

PASTORAL GOVERNOR

The purpose of the role is to act as a critical friend to the school for issues relating to the pastoral work. It includes provision of PSHE, work to support students' attendance and wellbeing, work to demand the highest standards of behaviour and appearance and work to provide a safe environment free from bullying, racism, and any other forms of intolerance between students.

CAREERS GOVERNOR

Supporting young people to make informed choices about their future is an important responsibility for schools and their governing boards. The careers governor takes leadership responsibility for their school careers education and guidance. The main duties are to understand and support the careers programme, to work with the careers leader and to report back to the board to keep them up to date.

CYBER SECURITY GOVERNOR

The Cyber Security Governor provides strategic leadership to the school on digital compliance as well as policies and procedures for the IT systems and data security. They need to have a basic understanding of cyber security threats and how to mitigate them.

Responsibilities include:

- oversight of strategic planning ensuring the school has adequate IT policies and procedures in place to protect student and staff data and systems
- ensuring governor understanding of potential cyber security risks and ensure the school has measures to mitigate them, such as firewalls, anti-virus software, and data backup systems
- ensure the school is compliant with relevant regulations, including GDPR, which protects student and staff data
- advocate for training programs for staff and students on cyber security best practices, including online safety
- awareness of the school's cyber security response plan and how to handle incidents effectively.

SUBJECT LINKED GOVERNORS

Governors are linked to a department. The purpose of this role is to:

- enable governors to gain a greater understanding of the work of the school
- provide curriculum areas with support and commitment through direct contact with governors.

It is expected that governors will meet once a term with their curriculum lead to discuss the work in the subject, strengths and weaknesses and progress against its priorities as set out in the School Development Plan. The Autumn Term meeting will be organised by the Headteacher and will focus on the previous summer's results, the Spring Term meeting on priorities for the following year's Development Plan, and the Summer Term on progress with the Development Plan. The meetings are not 'inspectorial' but should enable staff to feel supported and enable governors to see how the subject area's work contributes to the priorities for the school as a whole. A two-week period is allocated in the spring and summer terms for these meetings to take place.

After each meeting governors should complete a Note of Visit (and send a copy to those listed on the form). The broad agenda for the spring and summer term meetings is provided in the Note of Visit documents in Appendix 2.

For all non-subject visits a Note of Visit and framework for discussion is also included in Appendix 2.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

When you are visiting the school for any reason other than a scheduled governor meeting after the end of the school day, please use the main entrance and ensure you sign in. Meetings with staff, for example, the link department staff, should be arranged directly with that person. As a courtesy, please ensure that the Headteacher is aware of your visit by informing his Personal Assistant prior to the meeting.

Email is often the best way to contact individuals. All staff have email addresses which are usually of the following format:

Jane Smith would be jsmith@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

EVALUATING OUR WORK

As a Governing Board we strive to work effectively for the benefit of Bramhall High School. As part of this we continually evaluate our work. The following questions are used to guide us in this, they help provide information through monitoring, upon which we can evaluate what we do.

- Does the Governing Board work in partnership with the school?

- Are agendas and minutes produced and circulated in sufficient time?
- Is there a clear structure for committees?
- Is good use made of the Governing Board's time? Are meetings clear and focused and undertaken in a reasonable time?
- Are new governors given appropriate induction and offered mentoring from an experienced governor?
- Are we aware of the skills of each governor?
- What are governors' training requirements; are these reflected in the Governing Board Development Plan?
- How often do governors attend school functions?
- Is there an agreed policy on the management of governor visits?
- Are new governors given the opportunity to ask questions on anything they do not understand?
- How is the workload of the Governing Board organised? Is the workload spread out amongst the whole Governing Board?
- Are governors aware of the Code of Practice?

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

BRAMHALL HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR WEBSITE

Bramhall High School Governors' tab on the school website provides information useful to parents. This tab does not duplicate information about the school which is accessible through the school's main website.

<https://bhsweb.co.uk/governors-governance-overview>

The Bramhall High School safeguarding policy can be found on the school website at

<https://bhsweb.co.uk/school-safeguarding-and-well-being>

Ideally, all new governors should have Level One Safeguarding training and this can be accessed via Stockport's governor training programme mentioned below.

SLA ONLINE

The Bramhall High School Governor tab on SLA Online is the source for most information about the Board's work. It is password protected, and governors are allocated a password by the local authority. All paperwork for meetings is posted here. Other information including Board membership, dates of meetings can be accessed through the site. This is also where governors can access and sign up for workshops run by the local authority, including the New Governor training, plus other topic specific training to help with the governor role, for example Safeguarding or Pupil Discipline

Committee training. All members of our Governing Board who are new to governance are asked to attend the specific training course for new governors.

GOVAS (Governors' Association in Stockport) provides advice, training and an annual conference.

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

<https://www.nga.org.uk/Home.aspx>

As a governor you automatically become a member of the National Governors' Association, which again provides both information and training. There are many training modules on this site, which can be undertaken online. There is also a weekly newsletter with regular updates on issues relevant to education and governing matters in particular; you can also follow them on social media.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Code of Conduct for the Governing Board 2022

The following is not a definitive statement of responsibilities but is concerned with the common understanding of broad principles by which the governing board and individual governors will operate.

Governors of Bramhall High School accept the following principles.

We will focus on our core governance functions:

- ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its students and the performance management of staff
- overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent
- ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard.

As individual board members, we

- accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on our core functions rather than involve ourselves in day-to-day management
- will develop, share and live the ethos and values of our school
- agree to adhere to school/trust policies and procedures as set out by the relevant governing documents and law
- will work collectively for the benefit of the school
- will be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account
- will consider how our decisions may affect the school and local community
- will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective

- will speak up where decisions and actions conflict with the Seven Principles of Public Life or may place students at risk and bring this to the attention of the relevant authorities
- will only speak or act on behalf of the board if we have the authority to do so
- will fulfil our responsibilities as a good employer, acting fairly and without prejudice
- will follow the established procedures when making or responding to complaints
- will strive to uphold the school's reputation in our private communications (including on social media)
- will not discriminate against anyone and will work to advance equality of opportunity for all.

We will demonstrate our commitment to the role by

- involving ourselves actively in the work of the board, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, serving on committees or working groups where required
- making every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to
- arriving at meetings prepared, having read all papers in advance, ready to make a positive contribution and observe protocol
- getting to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities
- visiting the school and when doing so will make arrangements with relevant staff in advance and observe school and board protocol
- when visiting the school in a personal capacity (for example, as a parent or carer), we will continue to honour the commitments made in this code
- participating in induction training and take responsibility for developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis.

We will build and maintain relationships through

- developing effective working relationships with school leaders, staff, parents and other relevant stakeholders from our local community
- expressing views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with
- board members and staff both inside and outside of meetings

- working to create an inclusive environment where each board member's contributions are valued equally
- supporting the chair in their role of leading the board and ensuring appropriate conduct.

Respect confidentiality

- We will observe complete confidentiality both inside and outside of school when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern individual staff, pupils or families.
- We will not reveal the details of any governing board vote.
- We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
- We will maintain confidentiality even after we leave office.

Declare conflicts of interest and be transparent

- We will declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the board's business, and these will be recorded in the Register of Business Interests.
- We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise.
- If a conflicted matter arises in a meeting, we will offer to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and any subsequent vote.
- We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the school's website.
- We will act in the best interests of the school as a whole and not as a representative of any group.
- We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the governing board, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school website.
- We accept that information relating to board members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.

We understand that potential or perceived breaches of this code will be taken seriously and that a breach could lead to formal sanctions.

Appendix 2

Notes of Visit

Bramhall High School note of link Governor visit

Subject Departments

Autumn Term

This visit will be attendance at the September meeting between the head teacher and subject leader to analyse the year 11 results and discuss any implications for the work and priorities of the department. No note of visit is required. The record will be that produced from the meeting.

Spring term

Date and duration	Staff member	Governor

<p>YEAR 11 EXPECTATIONS</p> <p>What are you expecting/predicting?</p> <p>Specifically: SEND</p> <p>Disadvantaged</p> <p>EAL</p> <p>Most Able</p> <p>What extra-curricular support/provision are you planning to support year 11?</p>	
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<p>What, if any, are the implications of predictions for the Department Improvement Plan?</p>	
<p>CURRICULUM</p> <p>Are you considering any changes to the curriculum for September?</p> <p>How will you ensure all students can access the curriculum?</p>	
<p>LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT</p> <p>How do monitor the quality of teaching in the department?</p> <p>How do you ensure consistency in assessment policy across all staff?</p>	
<p>OTHER</p> <p>Are there any matters you would wish to raise with Governors?</p>	

Subject Department Note of visit

Summer term

Date and duration	Staff member	Governor

How are things going?	
<p>PRIORITIES</p> <p>What are your department's improvement priorities? Can I have a copy of your plan?</p>	
<p>CURRICULUM</p> <p>If not covered in section above,</p> <p>How do you ensure KS3 meets national curriculum requirements including contributions to enrichment and cultural capital?</p> <p>How do you ensure a curriculum focus on knowledge and recall?</p> <p>How does the department contribute to the whole school literacy policy, including reading?</p> <p>How do you ensure that all students have equal access to</p>	

<p>the KS4 curriculum? What support do you provide to help all students access your curriculum?</p>	
<p>SPECIFIC STUDENT GROUPS</p> <p>What is the department doing to support the progress and attainment of the following cohorts:</p> <p>Disadvantaged, including PP</p> <p>SEND</p> <p>Most able</p> <p>EAL?</p> <p>How do you know what impact your strategies are having?</p>	
<p>STAFFING</p> <p>Are you fully staffed? Are there any recruitment issues Governors should be aware of?</p>	
<p>OTHER</p> <p>Are there any other matters you would wish to raise with Governors?</p>	

Please send all Notes of Visits to the staff concerned, The HT's PA and the Chair of Governors.

Bramhall High School note of link governor visit

Year Heads

Date of visit and duration	Year Head	Governor

How are things going?	
<p>ATTENDANCE</p> <p>What is the attendance rate?</p> <p>Have you identified any areas of concern, if so what are you doing to support improvement?</p> <p>How do you contribute to improving attendance specifically of:</p> <p>Send</p> <p>Disadvantaged</p> <p>Other groups?</p>	
<p>BEHAVIOUR</p> <p>Have you identified any areas of concern, if so what are you doing to support improvement?</p> <p>How do you contribute to improving attendance of:</p> <p>Send</p> <p>Disadvantaged</p> <p>Other groups?</p>	
<p>RECORD KEEPING</p> <p>How do you record your interventions with and about individual students.</p> <p>How is information shared with and between other staff eg Core tutors, SENDCo, Attendance team?</p>	
<p>EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OF STUDENTS</p>	

This is an increasingly important element of school provision. How does your work contribute to it?	
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Please send all Notes of Visits to the staff concerned, The HT's PA and the Chair of Governors.

Bramhall High School note of link governor visit

To be used for meetings with lead staff for:

SEND

Pupil Premium

Wellbeing

Safeguarding

Cyber Security

**Pastoral
Careers**

Area eg SEND	Date and duration	Staff member	Governor

Please give a brief summary of matters discussed

Please send all Notes of Visits to the staff concerned, The HT's PA and the Chair of Governors.