

## Annual Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Body of Stalham High School  
September 2022

### School Vision/Mission Statement/Aims

‘Challenge Stalham’ is the philosophy which informs all teaching and learning at Stalham High. We believe that our students are capable of great independence and resilience in life and learning. As such our philosophy is to ensure that all students are challenged sufficiently so that they may rise to the occasion and transform themselves for the better. Our staff engage with current educational research allowing us to provide challenging and inspiring lessons, characterised by high expectations and a belief that, if challenged appropriately, we can all achieve success.

As a Learning Community, we apply the concept of challenge to all areas of school life. Our staff challenge themselves to develop their practice, ensuring inspiring, effective teaching; our students challenge themselves to act upon advice and feedback, ensuring personal development and secure learning, and our membership of the North Norfolk Academy Trust ensures that we are always challenged to equip our students with the very best preparation for life.

The ‘Challenge Stalham’ philosophy can be seen in action across our curriculum, in the accuracy of written work, the confidence of verbal contributions and the rigour of practical activities, as students strive to achieve the highest quality of learning and personal development.

The Local Governing Body of Stalham High School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

### Governance arrangements

- Membership – Currently, 1 Parent Governor and 1 vacancy. 1 staff governor and four community governors with 1 vacancy, the Executive Headteacher is also a governor..
- There are Link Governors for Safeguarding, SEND, Attendance, Careers, Health and Safety, Finance, Wellbeing, PD & SMSC, Equalities.
- Meeting structure – the full governing body meets half termly and link governors meet with the relevant school staff on a regular basis depending on their link requirements.
- Number of meetings - 7 full governing body meetings

### Attendance record of governors

Attendance has been good, with governors attending virtually when necessary. It was agreed that one governor could take time off for personal reasons. Below is a link to the attendance data for governors on the school website.  
<https://www.stalhamhigh.co.uk/our-school/governance1/>

**The work that we have done**

- Strategic development including:
  - Transition to the Synergy Trust model, enabling the school to benefit from being a member of a larger Trust, including staff training and development.
  - Restructure of the Leadership team, strengthening leadership and allowing middle leaders to develop their careers through secondments to leadership roles.
- Quality of education - curriculum design, bringing drama into the offer to ensure a full, broad and balanced curriculum to our students.
- Educational performance - examination of departmental reviews and tracking of examination groups and vulnerable students to ensure teaching and learning are reaching required standards.
- Monitoring – governors have met with their departmental links and undertaken monitoring of the following areas linked to the SIDP:
  - Safeguarding
  - Attendance
  - SEND
  - Staff wellbeing
  - Careers
- A thematic monitoring visit was undertaken by governors to examine how the Marking and Feedback policy was implemented and to establish the impact and areas for development.
- Student feedback was obtained by governors as part of their monitoring visits and through the recruitment process for the new executive Headteacher.
- Safeguarding is monitored by the safeguarding governor on a termly basis and the SCR is audited to ensure compliance. Reports are presented to the governing body.

One of the issues faced by the governing body and the school was post Covid recovery, specifically risk assessments for return to school, managing parental expectations and doubts, staff morale and well being on returning to school.

Staffing/recruitment has been an issue through the year , will impacts on the budget of needing to buy in supply cover.

Outline key issues faced and addressed by the Local Governing Body.

The governing body's actions have benefited the school by ensuring that budget spend is monitored and remains healthy, that any decisions enable the school to continue to expand in terms of numbers on role, that the curriculum is appropriate for the community and the cohort and that national issues are reflected in the practice of the school (Sexual Exploitation added to the School Improvement and Development Plan )

<p><b>Future plans for the Local Governing Body</b></p>	<p>Next year we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recruit to any governor vacancies, both parent and community.</li> <li>- Embed the new leadership team structure</li> <li>- Build our relationship with the new Executive Headteacher.</li> <li>- Extend opportunities for governor training through Synergy Trust.</li> <li>- Receive regular updates on staff career progression.</li> <li>- Continue to review our curriculum model.</li> <li>- Embed the new Specialist Resource base, including recruitment of staff.</li> <li>- Discuss the increase in student numbers at the school and how this can be maintained.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How you can contact the Governing Body</b></p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. Please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; minutes of Local Governing Body meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.</p>