



Governors' Annual Report to Parents

Summerhill School

Academic Year

2021/2022

Introduction

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the Summerhill Governing Board's Annual Report to Parents. The aim of this report is to inform you about the work of the Governing Board and its achievements over the last academic year. If, after reading this report you wish to find out more detailed information on individual areas of school life, policy and achievements, you can find this on the school website.

Essential information

Headteacher : Mr Tim Harris
 Chair of Governors : Mrs Carol Fletcher
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What is a governing board?

The governing board exists to make sure that the school runs effectively. It is a strategic role and the governing board performance manages the headteacher, who runs the school on a day-to-day basis. The core functions of the governing board are:

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

Membership of the governing board 2021/2022

Name	Office ends	Committees/additional responsibilities
Parent Governors		
Mrs Claire Williams	25.11.2023	Joint, SEND, Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor Member of CSSW Committee
Mr Ian Brookes	25.11.2023	Member of CSSW Committee
Staff Governor		
Ms Jane Wildboar	15.10.2024	Member of CSSW Committee
Local Authority Governor		
Cllr Pete Lee	06.07.2026	Member of CSSW Committee
Co-opted Governors		
Mrs Carol Fletcher	11.02.2025	Chair of Governors DAGB Representative Pupil Premium Governor Member of CSSW Committee and F&S Committee

Donna Green-Smith	09.01.2026	Co-Vice Chair of Governors Chair of F&S Committee Member of CSSW Committee
Mrs Deb Harris	09.04.2023	Member of F&S Committee and CSSW Committee
Mr Simon Hartland	27.03.2026	Member of CSSW Committee Vice Chair of CSSW Committee
Mrs Cath Ludwig	16.10.2025	Co-Vice Chair of Governors Joint SEND, Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor Chair of CSSW Committee Member of F&S Committee
Mr Ian Shepherd	11.02.2025	Member of F&S Committee and CSSW Committee
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Headteacher		
Mr Tim Harris	Ex-Officio	
Clerk to the Governing Board		
Mrs Jane Price	31.03.2023	

The Governing Board advertised for people to come forward for appointment as Co-Opted Governors and hope to be in a position to appoint to the vacancies during 2022-2023.

Cllr Pete Lee was welcomed to the Board in July as our Local Authority representative, and we all look forward to working with him.

The full governing board is scheduled to meet three times this academic year. The governing board reviewed its committee structure in the Summer Term and continues to consist of two committees to consider different aspects of the School in detail and five other committees to carry out statutory functions. These committees are listed below. The CSSW Committee consists of all Board members so that every Governor can have the opportunity to be involved in the very important aspects covered by the Committee.

- Finance and Staffing (F&S)
- Curriculum, Standards and Student Welfare (CSSW)
- Pay
- Performance Management
- Pupil Discipline
- Staff Discipline
- Appeals

Our vision for the school

The governing board is responsible for setting the school's vision (what the school will look like in three to five years' time) and strategy (what it will do to get to that point). Our vision was reviewed through conversations with pupils, parents, and staff during the 2021 Headteacher recruitment process and centres on our core value of Success Through Caring focusing on Courage, Ambition, Respect and Effort. We believe this will continue to drive up standards and provide a safe and happy environment for all students.



The best education for all pupils

The governing board is responsible for holding the headteacher to account for the education of students and the management of staff.

Curriculum

As a school we follow the National Curriculum. The curriculum is broad and balanced giving students the opportunity to learn about a full range of subject at KS3. As students move into Year 9, they are able to specialise slightly whilst still maintaining a wide core of academic subjects. As students move into Years 10 and 11, they opt for four subjects in addition to English, Maths, Science and then the spectrum of options allow students to follow a highly academic route, e.g. taking three separate sciences as well as two languages or a route with high quality vocational qualifications.

The school meets statutory requirements for Physical Education, Religious Education and Relationships and Sex Education. A special feature of Summerhill's curriculum is the inclusion of Global Learning lessons for all year groups. These provide citizenship, health, careers and other topics relevant for successful adult life with a high profile.

Outcomes

Year 11 – 2021-2022 saw the best ever outcomes for Summerhill.

Attainment at Summerhill is high, 83.3% of students attained Grade 4 or above in both English and Maths. 68% gained Grade 5 or above in both English and Maths and 19.1% gained Grades 9 – 7 in both English and Maths.

Progress at Summerhill is +0.55 compared to +0.07 for 2020-2021. This figure places Summerhill in the top 10% of schools in England.

Pupil Premium – Attainment for PP in 2022 is significantly higher than it has ever been in the school's history +0.04. PP Students have made greater progress than the average student nationally (PP or non-PP). The average progress for PP students nationally is -0.41, therefore, Summerhill PP students made, on average, half a GCSE grade more progress than PP students nationally.

Current Year 11 predictions are demonstrating that students will again achieve well above average progress.

Key Stage 3 – Progress is good, with 75.8% of all students working at Secure or Higher in their key competencies. This is approximately equivalent of 78% of students being on track to achieve mostly GCSE Grade 5 or higher by the end of Year 11.

SEND

Anna Mohamed was appointed as the School SENCo in April 2022. She is a very welcome addition to our staff. Joint governors for SEND were appointed again this year. Governors are keen to have a greater understanding in this area of the school and will be scheduling termly meetings moving forwards. The school continues to have a significant number of SEND students compared to the Dudley and National statistics, which requires greater support in school by Learning Support Assistants. Helping those students to achieve

progress levels in line with their peers is an ongoing priority. It continues to be challenging to manage the growing demand for SEND support with the resources available to school. This is likely to increase as the Local Authority have indicated that a greater proportion of students with high needs will need to be accommodated in mainstream schools in the future.

Safeguarding

The Governors with responsibility for Safeguarding continue to visit the school to meet with staff responsible for Safeguarding within the School and their reports are received by the Full Board at their termly meeting. Governors are satisfied that the arrangements in place are effective. The School ensures that all staff are well trained and kept fully up to date in all matters relating to safeguarding. Governors are also provided with and instructed to undertake the online Safeguarding training issued by the National College as well as any training offered by the Local Authority. All Governors are DBS Enhanced checked.

House System

Every student, governor and member of staff is part of the house system. Students take great pride in representing their house. Competitions can be individual, small group or including every member of the house. These are used to increase fun, enjoyment, promote teamwork and drive-up key standards for the school. Each House is led by a Head of House supported by a non-teaching House Officer. A very successful rewards evening was held at West Midlands Safari Park, Tree Tops in July which celebrated a range of student successes. This is one aspect of a plethora of reward and recognition opportunities for students.

Behaviour

Fixed term exclusions have declined significantly this year compared to last (35 in 2021-2022 compared to 143 in 2020-2021). The school now has a culture of restorative practice and Governors are very encouraged by the difference this is making to the behaviour of our students and the reduction in exclusions.

Governors approved the appointment of a Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral). Mr Chris Randle joined the school team and has made a huge difference to the capacity of staff to support our students. The school's behaviour policy has recently been reviewed and approved by Governors. A key strand is the introduction of improved clarity for students, staff and parents with an increased focus on the use of rewards, e.g. Immediate Lesson Rewards, Positive Points, Subject Point, House Star, Department Postcard, Senior Leadership Postcard, Headteacher Phone Call, Feel Good Friday Call.

Absence and attendance

The overall attendance of students is well above the national average at 93.26% (this includes covid absence), but we still have high expectations for this to improve further as we move out of the ramifications of the pandemic. Whilst the proportion of students who regularly miss school is reducing, the school has well-co-ordinated procedures in place for checking attendance and following up any absences.

Enrichment activities

In addition to normal lessons, there are a range of ways in which students can gain different learning experiences. Now that travel abroad is once again possible following Covid, a range



of school trips to other countries are planned for 2022-2023, as well as many trips around the UK. The extra-curricular programme provides a wide range of opportunities for young people, particularly in the areas of Performing Arts and Sport. House competitions and challenges have further enriched the life of Summerhill students, particularly providing opportunities for students to lead.

Admissions

The school's current admissions arrangement adheres to the DfE guidance. The admission authority is the Local Authority.

For the year 2021/2022 there were 481 applications for admission to Year 7. The admission limit for this year group is 210.

The school's admissions policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the Local Authority and full details, are available on the school website <https://www.summerhill.dudley.sch.uk>

School finances

The governing board is responsible for overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that its money is well spent.

In common with other schools both locally and nationally, financial budgets are proving to be extremely tight. Governors monitor the expenditure on a regular basis to ensure that the school is providing value for money. A large proportion of the budget goes on Staffing (83%) which is close to the ideal of 80%. The remainder of the budget goes across the other budget headings to run the school.

Ofsted

The last Ofsted inspection of the school took place on 3rd and 4th April 2019. All areas of the inspection found the school to be 'Good'. The report can be accessed via the school website or by clicking <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/103854>