

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of  
Woolwich Polytechnic School 2015-16**

The Governing Body of Woolwich Polytechnic School has a strong focus on the three core strategic functions:

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

**Governance Arrangements**

The full governing body meets once each term. There are three committees that meet on a half termly basis – finance and personnel, premises and curriculum. The governing body also has a Pay and Pay Appeals Committee which meet annually. Full governing body meetings and all committee meetings are professionally clerked and agendas and approved minutes are kept in the school office. Each committee has terms of reference.

Governors are also linked to areas or aspects of the school. Governors who visit the school provide a written report which is shared with the governing body.

A list of governing body members is available on the school website together with their individual responsibilities. Governors have a wide spread of knowledge and expertise and are part of the committees which utilise their skills.

Attendance at meetings is good and an attendance grid is available on the school website (governor pages).

**Key issues addressed by the governing body 2015-16**

The governing body has fulfilled its statutory duties in terms of monitoring all areas of the school's work and offering support and challenge through the agreed agendas of each committee and the agendas of full governing body meetings. Some of the areas covered this year:

- Rigorous School Improvement Plan
- Monitoring the use of Pupil Premium funding (statement available on the school website)
- Review of statutory policies and ensuring there is compliance of the school website
- Monitoring of pupil progress across the school and ensuring there is a broad offer of curriculum to all students

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rigorous budget management and assurances of ‘best value’</li> <li>• Securing Woolwich Polytechnic’s bid for a girls school</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment of Impact</b>	<p>Governors provide a high level of challenge to the Headteachers and the school. They consider a range of documents and data provided by the school in order to judge the impact of strategies within the school. Governors also visit the school to meet with staff to gain a greater understanding of the school and the on-going requirement to raise standards. The school’s Improvement Partner provides notes of visit which are considered at governing body meetings.</p> <p>Governors monitor finance stringently to ensure the school’s budget is spent to achieve the best possible outcomes for students.</p>
<b>Future plans for the governing body</b>	<p>The governing body will continue its work in line with the government agenda.</p> <p>The governing body is keen to further partnership with other schools.</p> <p>The governing body is working with the Headteachers to secure land for Woolwich Polytechnic Girls School.</p>
<b>Contact Details</b>	<p>The governing body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the School, Bob Janes.</p>