

Yardley Hastings Primary School Governors' Annual Report to Parents 2016.

The Governing Body of Yardley Hastings Primary School for the year 2015-2016 comprised:

Co-opted Governors: Anthony Williamson (Chair), Jane Cooke, Tony Slocombe, Kate Coleman

Local Authority Governor: Reverend Derek Hopkins

Elected Parent Governors: Chris Johnson, Jackie Burney-Childs (Vice Chair)

Staff Governor: Louise Brown

Headteacher: Jill Gardner

Clerk to Governors: Alison Cunningham

The Governors would like to wholeheartedly thank Tony Slocombe who stepped down from the Governing Body after more than 20 years of dedicated service. Tony made a huge contribution to the school in numerous areas over this very long period and we thank him for his work.

We are very pleased to welcome Mark Henderson to the Governing Body as a new Parent Governor and look forward to his involvement and contribution to YHPS.

We have continued to ensure that Governors have, between them, the relevant skills needed to successfully drive standards upwards. All Governors actively participate in tasks in school that are designed to allow them to see first-hand how the school operates and how to further support the school community.

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to fulfil a set of four Core Functions:

1. Setting the vision and strategic direction of the school:

This year, the Governors have:

- Reviewed and updated the school vision, aims and values.
- Reviewed a wide range of data and feedback from monitoring sessions within school to identify areas of both strength and weakness, and ensured that these are fed into the School Improvement Plan.
- Set, reviewed and monitored performance targets for the Headteacher, and ensured that they link to school improvement.
- Remained focused on staff development, through training, mentoring and role development, at all levels to ensure the school continues to thrive.
- Considered and approved new policies and reviewed and updated key existing policies including Behaviour, Safeguarding and SEND. Governors have ensured that they have fulfilled their statutory duty by ensuring that all relevant policies are in place and have been updated appropriately.
- Sought out and acted upon the views of pupils and parents through direct discussion with parents and attendance at School Council meetings.
- Attended relevant training courses to improve their skills to support the whole school community and ensure that we continue to be effective in our role.
- Ensured the 'Outstanding' Nursery continues to thrive both in quality of provision and financially.

2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the performance of the school:

This year, the Governors have:

- Performed regular and detailed analysis of all school data to identify the school's strengths and weaknesses, and actively challenged the Headteacher to ensure robust systems are in place to address areas of weakness.
- Actively questioned the Headteacher on details of the School Improvement Plan and ensured that resources continue to be directed effectively to areas of need.
- Monitored teaching and learning within the school.
- Visited school to take part in learning walks and book scrutinies alongside senior and middle leaders, to gain an understanding of pupil data and tracking methods, pupil progress and attainment.
- Carried out comprehensive audits of the safeguarding provision.
- Specifically considered the progress and attainment of our pupils with SEND and other vulnerable groups.
- Regularly received in-depth information from middle/senior leaders at Governors' meetings regarding Curriculum, Quality of Teaching, Behaviour and Safety, and Attainment. This has ensured that the Governors have a clear and broad understanding of the context of their work and helped shape strategic questions and decisions.

3. Ensuring financial resources are well spent:

This year, the Governors have:

- Set a budget which demonstrates spending choices are made in line with school priorities.
- Ensured that resources for increased intervention support have continued to have a positive impact.
- Ensured that Pupil Premium funds are appropriately utilised.
- Ensured that all spending is in line with 'Best Value' principles.
- Ensured the strategic planning for the spending of other grants such as Sports Funding is robust, with a strong focus on the impact for pupil outcomes.

4. Ensuring statutory duties are met and priorities approved:

This year, the Governors have:

- Carried out a full audit of the school website to ensure that it is up to date and complies with regulations. These include details of provision of PE and sport and how sports funding is to be spent.
- Ensured that key policies are available on the website.
- Continued to have a specific Safeguarding Governor to ensure that all safeguarding responsibilities continue to be met. Undertaken a comprehensive audit of the school's safeguarding provision.
- Updated the school Child Protection policy to include new and updated guidance from the government. Established a robust schedule for monitoring compliance of our statutory duties in respect of policies.
- Ensured that we continue to have a sub-committee with responsibility for Health & Safety who have met regularly with the Headteacher to confirm that the school is compliant with all requirements.

Governor attendance at meetings has been at a very good level, with any absences having been fully explained and accepted.

The Governing Body of Yardley Hastings Primary School is committed to improving all aspects of our provision, working with the Headteacher, staff and pupils, together with the wider community. We value the views of all stakeholders and constantly strive to develop ourselves and others around us.

The school continues to be successful with ongoing improvement in pupil progress and attainment which reflects a whole school drive to consistently raise standards.

Future Plans for 2016-2017

To continue to monitor the new assessment without levels system.

To continue to ensure that we comply with all statutory duties.

To continue to seek out and listen to the views of parents and children (We will be conducting a comprehensive written parent survey in January 2017).

To continue to support the Head and Deputy and to act as a critical friend.

To remain focused on staff development and training.

To maintain a firm grip on school finances and resources to ensure school financial stability.

To continue to support all staff to ensure that areas such as British Values are fully embedded within the curriculum.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this report then please feel free to contact either the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors via the School Office.