



Yardley Hastings Primary School

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Executive Headteacher
Mrs Louise Brown

Yardley Hastings Primary School Governors' Annual Statement - October 2017.

The Governing Body of Yardley Hastings Primary School for the year 2016-2017 comprised:

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

Community Governor: Reverend Derek Hopkins

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

Teacher Governor: Louise Brown

Head Teacher: Jill Gardner

Clerk to Governors: Alison Cunningham

Dear Parents and Carers

The academic year 2016/17 was a very busy year for Yardley Hastings Primary School and our governing body. Jill Gardner, Executive Headteacher, retired after 16 years of strong and successful leadership at the school. Tasked with recruiting a quality successor with a strong vision for YHPS we made the strategic decision to further tighten our links with Denton Primary School and benefit from the advantages and opportunities that this can bring by formally agreeing to continue with the executive headship arrangements. After a very robust recruitment process we were delighted to confirm that from September 2017 Louise Brown became our new executive headteacher with responsibility across both schools – and so a new era begins.

We would like to take this opportunity to mention staff who moved on at the end of the academic year:

Sarah Wilkinson, HLTA retired after a long relationship with the school.

Elaine Murphy, HLTA moved on to continue her teacher training.

Victoria Burrows, Class 2 teacher, moved on to Denton Primary School to take up a new challenge there.

Richard Watt, Class 3 teacher, moved to a larger Northampton school to further his career.

We are enormously grateful for the contribution that they have all made here at YHPS.

We would also like to offer a warm welcome to new staff members joining the school and wish them every success:

Deputy Head Teacher: Camille McManus

Teacher, Class 3: Amanda Brett

Teaching Assistant, Class 3: Rachel Abra

Also, after many years as a very proactive and effective governor here at Yardley Hastings Primary School, Kate Coleman stepped down from her position as a co-opted governor. We thank her for her invaluable insight and contribution to the governing body.

At the end of the year Jackie Burney-Childs became a co-opted governor after almost eight years as a parent governor.

It is our responsibility as 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 play an important part in the school improvement plan.
- Set, reviewed and monitored performance targets for the Head Teacher, and ensured that these link to school improvement.
- Played an integral part in recruiting a new SLT – alongside the recruitment of the new Executive Head Teacher, the recruitment of a dedicated Deputy Head Teacher to enhance the school's offering and improve outcomes for our children.
- Considered and approved a number of new policies and reviewed and updated key existing policies. 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 regular attendance at school events along with visits to School Council meetings throughout the year.
- 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. Of note this year have been courses such as Prevent training for the whole governing body and a six day training course on Attachment Awareness attended by Jackie Burney-Childs, Louise Brown and Caroline McCulloch (Pastoral Care Manager). Understanding our pupils and their emotional needs is key to providing them with the education and support that they need and the Governing Body is committed to supporting the staff at YHPS as they implement this approach.
- Ensured that our 'Outstanding' nursery has continued to thrive both educationally and financially.

2. Holding the Head Teacher 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. Benchmarked the school's performance against similar schools both locally and nationally. We have proactively challenged the Head Teacher to ensure the school's systems are robust and address areas of weakness.
- Actively and regularly questioned the Head Teacher 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 regularly to see how the school operates, how the children learn and to take part in learning walks and book scrutinies to gain an understanding of pupil data and tracking methods, pupil progress and attainment.
- Carried out comprehensive audits of the safeguarding provision and regularly inspected the school's single central record.
- Focussed on the progress and attainment of our pupils with SEND.
- 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.
- Encouraged the school to work more collaboratively with neighbouring Denton Primary School to enhance the educational experience and attainment for our pupils that this approach can bring.

3. Ensuring financial resources are well spent:

This year, the Governors have:

Ensured the budget demonstrates all spending decisions are made in line with the school's priorities.

- Ensured that resources for increased intervention support for individual children have continued to have a positive outcome.
- Ensured that all school spending is in line with 'best value' principles.
- Ensured the strategic planning for the spending of other grants such as Sports Funding is robust. Focus on pupil outcomes is always at the heart of all decision making.

4. Ensuring statutory duties are met and priorities approved:

This year, Governors have:

- Ensured that the school website is up to date and complies with regulations.
- 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.
- Monitored compliance of our statutory duties in respect of policies.
- Maintained our Health & Safety Committee who have met with the Head Teacher to confirm that the school is compliant with all requirements.

Governor attendance at meetings has been at a good level. All absences have been fully explained and accepted.

The Governing Body of Yardley Hastings Primary School is committed to improving all aspects of our school, working with the Head Teacher, 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 2017-2018

- To support and act as a critical friend to our new executive headteacher and her deputy as she embarks on her first year as school leader and endeavours to take it from strength to strength.
- To investigate further opportunities for collaborative working with Denton Primary School – and others – to better utilise resources and improve outcomes for our pupils.
- To take part in regular learning walks alongside the Senior Leadership Team to better appreciate teaching and learning in the school.
- To continue to monitor assessment systems.
- 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 to improve the school experience for all.
- To work to ensure the new staff team integrate and build strong working relationships with each other, parents, staff and governors.
- To invest and develop the staff members to ensure they are well placed to take on more roles and responsibilities for the benefit of themselves and the wider school
- To reflect upon our governing body and have in place a succession plan to ensure that we have all the necessary skills to run effectively.
- To ensure that the school budget is set and financially robust to support learning through this year and is in strict accordance with Government policies and guidance.

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. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

Jackie Burney-Childs/Anthony Williamson Oct 2017.