



Annual Statement of the Governing Body 2016 / 2017



The major focus of the governors is to ensure that our pupils progress appropriately in their education. The Governing Body appreciate that for this to happen the pupils must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff all working together within a safe, supportive, stimulating environment. Governors appreciate too the requirements of our children's parents and carers and their need to be satisfied about the overall leadership and management of the school and how it affects safety, learning and enjoyment of their children.

In reviewing the way the school works, the Governors have gained a huge respect for staff at the school. We are so grateful for the levels of skill, effort, professionalism, and care for the children that we see on a regular basis, and would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks for all they do.

To achieve their objectives governors too must continually evaluate the role they have played within the life of the school, and publish relevant information to all interested parties. This is our annual statement for 2016 - 2017

The Governing Body has three core strategic functions which are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Governors are responsible for setting the school's strategic framework, identifying priorities for school improvement and monitoring progress towards these goals. We are also responsible for setting a school ethos of high expectations of behaviour, progress and attainment of all pupils and of conduct of staff and governors.

2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff

Governors must provide challenge to the school and hold the headteacher and senior leaders to account for improving the quality of teaching and learning and school performance. We do this through questioning and through regular monitoring and analysis of data on children's performance and progress. Governors hold the headteacher to account for the performance management of teachers. (The headteacher's performance management is conducted by governors.)

3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Governors look at financial statements and ask questions to ensure that the school makes efficient use of its budget and provides best value for money.

A list of the current Governors can be found on the school website.

We have three main committees, which undertake much of the detailed work, in line with their terms of reference:

1. School Improvement Committee. Responsible for reviewing what the children are taught and how well they are being taught it.
2. Pay and Performance Committee. Responsible for working with the Head Teacher to annually determine salary progression for eligible staff and auditing the school's Performance Management processes.
3. Resources Committee. Responsible for setting and monitoring the school budget and personnel matters, overseeing the financial management of the school, as well as the maintenance of the buildings and all matters relating to health and safety.

In addition, there are a number of statutory roles that individual governors take on (e.g. overseeing Safeguarding in the school, or how Pupil Premium money is used). Once again, details of those filling these roles are available on the school website.

We meet as a full Governing Body at least six times a year. Attendance at these meetings has generally been very good over the last year. But attendance at meetings is only part of the role, and most governors are regularly in the school during the day, in order to meet with staff and monitor different aspects of school life. We are also encouraged to attend Governor training activities, to ensure that we are able to fulfil our roles.

Each year the Governing Body considers:

- Standards of attainment and progress of all year groups and groups of children across the school
- Attendance and punctuality
- Staffing
- Finance
- Health and Safety
- Regular review of the School Development Plan and the School's Self Evaluation

During the 2016-17 school year, the Governors have in particular focused on:

- Assessment for all pupils
- The use of the Pupil Premium allowance and its impact on pupils
- The introduction of new regulations for supporting children with special educational needs.
- The School Budget

The following are some of the ways in which the Governing Body impact on the strategic management of the school.

School Development Plan (SDP) -

Governors work co-operatively with the head teacher and senior management in the writing and monitoring the School Development Plan. The School Development Plan sets aims for the school. The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SDP is set out with clear aims, the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these aims and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SDP is monitored and reviewed termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to governors within the HT report.

Governor visits –

The governors are invited to visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP and of specific issues. Guidance in terms of the roles and responsibilities of statutory link governors are provided to relevant governors and regular training is available in order to up skill our team.

Data analysis –

Data is made available to governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the head teacher and members of the senior management team thus the governors are able to benchmark their data against similar schools, the Local Authority and schools nationally to ensure the schools standards and expectations are high and are able to be closely scrutinised.

Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium.

Policies –

Governors review all relevant policies on a programmed basis to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list and the Local Authority recommended list.

Financial management –

Members of the governing body have been trained in School Finance management. The impact of the governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous.

Governor expertise – the governors bring a wide variety of expertise to the school and this helps to ensure the school is moving forward.

Governor Meeting Attendance-

Governor attendance has been of a very good level, with any absences having been fully explained and accepted and approved by the governing body. There are no causes for concern at the level of commitment shown by any member of the governing body.

Review-

The governing body, the head teacher and all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school. The school has increasingly been successful with ongoing improvement in pupil progress and attainment which reflects a whole school drive to consistently improve standards.

Key areas we will be focusing on in 2017-2018 in line with the SDP -

1. Continue the robust drive to improve standards and progress for all groups of pupils.
2. Conclude the formal consultation on forming a Hard Federation with Dog Kennel Hill primary. For further details please go to:
<http://rotherhitheprimary.co.uk/hard-federation/> to access information on the consultation documents.
3. Improving the impact of Teaching Assistants through the MITA project.
4. Finance – ensuring value for money
5. Improve computing provision

Conclusion

We hope this brief statement has been useful. Any comments would be gratefully received. As ever, please pass any messages to us via the school office or email me directly on: chair@rotherhithe.southwark.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

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Mr Ray Piggott
Chair of Governors
Rotherhithe Primary School