



GOVERNORS' ANNUAL STATEMENT - 2016/17

The Governing Body of Baydon St Nicholas is responsible for:

- **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 progress, attainment and behaviour of all pupils and of conduct of staff and governors.

- **Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the pupils and the performance management of the staff**

Governors must provide challenge to the school and hold the headteacher and staff 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. The headteacher's performance management is conducted by Governors.

- **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.

School Development Action Plan (SDAP)

Governors work closely with the Headteacher and Senior Management in the writing and monitoring the School Development Action Plan. The SDAP sets aims for the school year. The current SDAP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and feedback from Ofsted. The SDAP 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 Governing Body is divided into various sub-committees; Strategy, Finance, Buildings, Teaching & Learning. Detailed below is an overview of the work carried out by each of the Committees during the academic year 2016/17.

Strategy

This group was set up as a short-term group to support the Full Governing Body as we worked with staff to review our vision for the school, our strategic aims and values.

Finance

- We met monthly to support the Head Teacher to carefully monitor expenditure in her first year;
- We introduced a new management report for use in 2017-2018 to improve monitoring;
- We continued to look at expenditure from a best value perspective;
- We used benchmarking to consider our expenditure against other similar schools;
- We monitored the expenditure on Pupil Premium, Universal Free School Meals, and the PE Grant.
- We worked with the Finance Officer and Head Teacher to prepare and agree the Budget for 2017-2018 to ensure prudent financial planning whilst utilising all finances to best effect.

Buildings

- We continue to do regular Health and Safety checks around the whole school. This includes checking the regular maintenance plan and any other repairs which arise.
- A new Travel Plan was written which resulted in receiving a grant for improving the signage of the school in order to make it more visible to passing traffic.
- A successful bid was made for some general school upkeep and improving Magpies (the room at the end of the school hall). The work on Magpies is due to start next term. We were unsuccessful in our bid to replace the mobile classroom but will try again this year.
- Ideas were gathered for the new play area from pupils, staff and parents before getting quotes for the proposed work. Much of this work has been undertaken by Mrs Knighton and we are excitingly close to making a decision.

Teaching & Learning

- The Teaching and Learning Committee have held 6 meetings throughout an exciting year 2016/17, with most members in attendance each time. We were occasionally joined by the Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare Committee.
- Members looked closely at external and internal data at each meeting and interviewed various teacher/subject coordinators. We were also updated on the work of the Worship Committee.
- As one of the main themes of the School Development Action Plan was Maths, an in-depth report was given by the coordinator.
- The T&L Committee were then able to monitor the trialling of working walls and hear "pupils voice" about work on geometry in yr 6. Parents Workshops were held for Maths and Phonics which were well attended.
- The English coordinator reported on the newly introduced Spelling and Handwriting programmes.
- It was decided the Committee assess progress by studying Skylark/Goldfinches books, and by talking to the children about the new marking policy.
- Science, Early Years and RE coordinators also gave details of progress in their Action Plans.
- The Committee were also pleased to hear about the many ex-curricula activities arranged for the children throughout the year.

Thanks to the hard work, commitment and dedication of our fantastic teaching staff, we are proud of the recent Ofsted report and SATS results (both of which can be viewed on the school website) that reflect our whole school drive to consistently raise standards and we look forward to another challenging and rewarding year ahead.

Communications Group (on behalf of the Full Governing Body)