

Suffield Park Infant and Nursery School Annual Governance Statement July 2017

Members:

Dr Vivienne Lennox – Chair
Mr John Sansby – Vice Chair
Mrs Jacqueline Bradford
Mr John Neenan
Mrs Hilary Cox
Mrs Sarah Woods
Mrs Alyson Appleyard
Revd Peter Herbert
Mrs Christine Townsend

Associate members:

Mrs Nichola Stewart
Mrs Tracey Showers
Mrs Hayley Powell

All school governing bodies have three core strategic functions

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

Our governing body is currently made up of:

- 1 authority governor
- 5 co-opted governors
- 1 parent governors
- the headteacher
- 1 staff governor

We have a vacancy for a co-opted governor and will be seeking two parent governors in September.

Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing body and are people who have the skills to help the governing body carry out its core functions.

We also have 3 associate governors who help the governing body in specific areas of governance.

The full governing body meets twice each term and receives reports from our committees who meet regularly to monitor the work of the school.

Our committees are:

- The finance and personnel committee
- The curriculum committee
- The nursery committee
- The health and safety & buildings committee
- The strategy committee

- The headteacher's performance management committee
- The pay committee

Over the past academic year, the main areas for focus of the governing body have been:

- To lobby for and oversee the building project to replace all the mobile classrooms and remodel the existing school, so that all our children have accommodation fit for the delivery of quality education.
- To ensure that funding for disadvantaged children is used to enable them to make accelerated progress and close the gap in attainment with other children.
- To monitor the progress of learning so that a greater percentage of children reach at least the expected standard of attainment and more children achieve a greater depth of learning.
- To ensure financial viability in both the school and the nursery.
- To investigate all options for partnerships with other schools and possible multi academy trust status.
- Reviewing policies on a rolling programme.

The finance and personnel committee has worked with the senior management team and our finance officer to agree the school budget and spending priorities. It has monitored spending each month and adjusted the budget as required to ensure school priorities are adequately funded. It has successfully completed the Schools Financial Value Standard and ensured value for money. Staffing has been reviewed and adjusted according to pupil numbers and specific pupil needs.

The curriculum committee has analysed the results achieved by the children and challenged staff for explanations for differences between groups of children. They have received reports from subject leaders, monitored the school improvement plan, ensured safeguarding arrangements are robust and received reports of any complaints.

The nursery committee has received reports from the nursery manager on all aspects of the nursery including staffing, finance, safeguarding and the delivery of the EYFS. They have agreed the nursery budget and monitored staffing workload and sustainability.

The health and safety & buildings committee have carried out risk assessments, monitored the state of the buildings and grounds, scrutinised the accident log and drawn up a business continuity plan for use in the event of a disaster.

The strategy committee has actively looked into partnerships with other schools, developed with the senior management team the school's improvement and development plan, the three-year strategic plan and agreed the school's staffing structure.

Minutes of the governing body and committee meetings are public documents. If you would like to see any of the minutes please ask in the school office.

Priorities for governing body in the coming year include:

- Completion of the building project
- The development of a new library

- To review the school's aims and ethos
- Diminishing the difference in attainment between disadvantaged and other children
- Monitoring the progress of the school's development plan, which includes making improvements in the results in spelling and reading.
- Ensuring that funds are available to meet the needs of all pupils.
- Further consider joining a multi academy trust, as promoted by the government, if it is felt that this would be of benefit to the education of our children.
- Reducing the number of pupils whose low attendance is a cause of concern.
- Filling the vacant places on the governing body

We always welcome feedback and ideas from parents and we are seeking parents who would be interested in joining the governing body – please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office.