

~ Annual Governor Statement ~

Governing Bodies play a vital role in ensuring that every child in school gets the **best possible education**. Children need to be safe, happy and challenged in the school environment and governors at Greenmount work hand to hand to make this happen. They are robust in meeting the demands of 3 major duties:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and **strategic direction**.
- holding the **Headteacher** to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- overseeing the **financial** performance of the school and making sure that public money is well spent and has impact.

Crucially, this means the governors need to use and understand objective data information and reports and ask the right incisive questions about:

- the performance of pupils
- the performance of teachers
- the status of the school budget.

The D.F.E (Dept for Education) Governance Handbook (Nov 2015) outlines other important roles:

- preparing pupils for **life** and the workplace.
- developing the **emotional** as well as academic intelligence of children for character development and resilience.
- implementing their PREVENT duty to protect children from the risks of extremism.
- **networking** and establishing school to school collaboration.

Greenmount governors are also approachable, friendly people. Minutes of gov. body meetings, which capture the hard work of the gov. body, are displayed in the entrance hall.

Governance arrangements

The present gov. body began reconstituting in January 2016, though this report reflects on the quality and hard work of last year's smaller group. We now have 12 governor opportunities:

Staff Governors X 2

Elected Parent Governor X2

Local Authority Governor X1

Co-opted Members X 6 (1 Vacancy)

Associate Governor X1

Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing body as they have the skills and talent which contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. The full gov. body meets 4 times per year; the 3 sub-committees meet 6 times per year.

The **Resource sub-committee** focuses on finance, staffing, property management, health and safety, recruitment and performance management.

Our **Teaching and Learning sub-committee** focuses on school improvement, the curriculum, standards, policies and continual professional development.

The **Pupil Support** group focuses on SEND, safeguarding, attendance, extracurricular provision and emotional health provision.

2014/2015 Governor Activity – Autumn.

Resources

A skills audit was undertaken in the Autumn term for the Resources committee. It proved that members have the necessary skills to analyse financial data. The funding for **Pupil Premium** was also discussed and an overview of the last years plan was analysed and proved yet again that 1st wave teaching and Homework Clubs still have most impact on accelerated progress. Only 6 children failed to 'accelerate' their progress – 4 were SEN and 2 had family problems.

Then C.F.R (Consistent Financial Reporting) was presented to governors and compared with the C.F.R of Swarcliffe Primary. Governors made an analysis of budget reports at every meeting and advised the Headteacher if any virements or **adjustments** needed to be made. The chair and vice-chair reported back on their attendance at LEA Governors Network meeting so we know what is happening across the city. Governors fully supported the introduction of **Free School Meals** for KS1 even though eating space is at a premium in school with children eating in classrooms.

Teaching and Learning

The full governing body and the sub-committee have delved into **SATS** results at KS1 and KS2. **Key stage 1** results continue on an upward trend as does the percentage of G.L.D in Early Years (Good Level of Development) but our younger children are behind those of similar age, nationally. The results at **KS2** were above national figures except for grammar and maths. Governors discussed the action necessary to improve these results and could see the importance of new initiatives such as **extended** writing and **outdoor** maths. The School Improvement plan was reviewed.

Safeguarding

The new Child Protection Policy is now in place and governors have ensured that all staff have been trained and can access the policy on the school platform, Onedrive. After training all new staff are given a questionnaire and tested on their knowledge. Governors appreciated the impact of our automated e-mail (monthly) which keeps safeguarding high on the agenda for all staff.

Governors enjoyed reading the behaviour audit as it was so positive. Lunch time playtime has been improved with the introduction of the 'Games Academy' where 'naughty' children play with adults and learn new activities. Our Vice chair attended training on the new educational plans for **SEN** pupils. The **Safeguarding Annual** report was discussed by the sub-committee. The chair of governors visited classrooms, as did the sub-committee members, who also conducted a maintenance walk. A member of the sub-committee attended the parent forum.

Register of Interests

The full gov. body completed individual forms and no-one had any conflict of interest at that time.

Spring

Resources

The Resource sub-committee were very busy in the spring term – they completed the following tasks and reported back to full governors. Two **Budget Summaries** for the year were reviewed and acted upon. The school finance officer presented the end of year review and another was put together by the 'Arbor Education Partners.' Both mentioned the contingency funding – Governors have planned to use some of this for the **new roof**.

Contingency hasn't reached 15% of the whole budget or there would be a 'clawback.' They were pleased that the amount per pupil, which school receives, has gone up 35% in 3 years. A very generous LEA!

- two budget summaries.
- they analysed a **Best Value** exercise on the provision of First Aid trainers.
- agreed that the free milk subsidy would continue.
- appraised the Headteacher along with Cath Howe – an outside consultant who has worked with Manchester Challenge.
- agreed that the staff **pay progressions** proceed.
- recapped on the effect of the unprecedented number of maternities, paternities and pregnancies we have had over recent years. 3 pregnancies, 2 maternities this spring term alone!
- the chair of the finance sub-committee completed training on the new Pay Policy (and on exclusion)

Teaching

Two members of the sub-committee completed a **2 day training** module. The reports from **subject leaders** were shared with the full gov. body and they attempted the Level 6 Maths paper (SATS) from last year! **The Ofsted dashboard** was discussed which again confirmed the maths and grammar issues. The policy on attendance and a new document on domestic violence were discussed and agreed on (Protocol between W.Y Police and Leeds Children's services). This last document explained what action the police take when they find that children have observed a domestic violence incident. School policy on attendance was reviewed and **good nursery attendance** was seen as a must not just for the individual pupil but for good school routines later on.

Safeguarding

A new regulation appeared from the D.F.E called '**Disqualification by Association**' and the chair of governors and Headteacher responded very quickly to its implementation. Having a relative with a conviction could disqualify staff from working in school. A waiver has to be applied for if such a relative exists. Governors asked that the ICT co-ordinator to remind parents of privacy settings needed to keep children safe on the internet and supported the parent advice on the website. The new policy on **medical conditions** was read and supported. The governors were aware of the care suite provision and how supportive staff are in ensuring children get their medication safely. The office staff manage and implement the policy. Our chair of governor's continued to meet with the Headteacher every Thursday.

Summer

Resources

The formula funding allocation was discussed by the sub-committee and full governing body and the new budget accepted. The continuing problem with the roof, especially in high winds when slates come off, was discussed. Governors anticipated a sight visit from surveyors from the Build Environment Department in the autumn.

The resource committee perused the **3 year projection** model; the increase in pupil numbers and high staff turnover make it difficult to predict future funding allocations. The chair of governors met with other colleagues at networking meetings and recommended the National Governor Association Website. The governors discussed their important role in **staff performance** and progression and agreed that the SFVS (School Financial Value Standard) had been reached. Governors were pleased that another member of staff was studying with the National College of Leadership.

Teaching and learning

SATS tests loomed large in sub-committee and main meeting discussions. The chair of governors helped **invigilate** Year 6 maths tests and the LEA were present for grammar and spelling. The children were praised for their concentration, contemplation and patience by both parties. Governors were pleased that the teaching of MFL (**French**) was up and running and agreed to the lesson organisation and policy.

New **Ofsted** procedures were discussed and governors noted 3 major changes – fewer lesson observations and more work scrutiny and more pupil interviews. Three new parent initiatives were praised by the full governing body – **walking bus**, **Early bird** provision and **First Aid** procedures. Governors continued to get their heads around ‘assessment without levels’ and agreed the writing criteria used for extending writing had lots of merit. Governors acknowledged a healthy partnership with the **Jess Cluster** who provide our extended services and promote collaborative working.

Safeguarding

The LEA and Jess Cluster have arranged for each school to have a link **social worker** who can advise the safeguarding team and supervise their work. The team will meet half termly.

Future Plans

Discussions between the Headteacher and the chair led to some initiatives for next year:

- Improve Governors Log
- School Visits to be more focussed

- Pupil Support sub to be appointed
- Reduction of agenda items
- Application for Governors Charter Mark