

## **Governors Impact Statement 2015-2016**

All governors have 3 core strategic functions to deliver, these are:

- 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, and the performance management of staff; and**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

The School Development Plan (SDP) is created by governors and members of staff to address any weaknesses identified and to build upon the strengths of the School. How do we do this? Primarily the governing body reviews multiple sources of data, such as:

- Achievement of pupils against national standards at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 from Raise on Line and the Fischer Family Trust websites
- The progress of pupils from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2
- The progress of all pupils including, those with Special Educational Needs, those who are more able and those that are deemed to be disadvantaged
- The views of parents and carers through an annual survey and OFSTED's Parentview
- The views of pupils through an annual survey, presentations from the School Council and feedback from governors' monitoring visits to School
- The Self Evaluation Form – this is a document that reflects the OFSTED inspection framework categories and the governing body and staff assess how they are currently performing against the OFSTED criteria. Areas for improvement are identified and action plans included within the SDP.

The School Development Plan is continually being updated with progress updates and new initiatives and the Head Teacher updates the governing body on a termly basis. In addition, on an annual basis, the governors and all teaching and teaching support staff review the SDP and the School's vision, ethos and strategic direction.

The work of the governing body has had a significant impact on developing the School. Listed below are examples of activities, events and systems that illustrate the impact of the governing body on School Improvement.

**Financial Management** – governors agree and regularly review the school budget. Forecasting, benchmarking and costing of the actions within the School Development Plan are all key activities.

**Policies** – governors review all policies regularly to ensure that guidance is up to date, appropriate and is being implemented.

**Sustainability** – governors regularly meet with representatives with Bosley Bobkins, the pre-school provider that operates from an independent building within the School premises, to help with the transition of children from pre-school to School. A successful 'play and stay' weekly session has been implemented for those of pre-school age.

Partnerships – governors also regularly meet with governors from another local, small, Christian School to share best practice, arrange joint initiatives and religious services for both sets of pupils.

Community – governors are very supportive of the School being integral to the local community, the Church and Chapel communities and local events. The School community has been involved in fund raising for those affected by the Bosley Mill disaster (17.07.15) and continues to support related events. A weekly Youth Club is hosted at the School for the benefit of current and previous pupils, as well as other children within the community. Craft groups, exercise classes and the Annual Rose Queen and Fell Race are also part of the School's calendar.

Technology – the introduction of a new website in 2015 has contributed to reduced printing costs due to the introduction of virtual newsletters for parents and carers. New computing equipment has been purchased, with thanks to an active and generous Parent Teacher Association (PTA), to benefit pupils and further prepare them for life in the digital age. Equipment for teachers has also recently been updated.

Outdoor space – with funding from the National Lottery, the outdoor area between the School and Bobkins has been refurbished and is enjoyed by all year groups, especially those in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Part of the grassed, and usually muddy front play area, is being replaced with astro-turf. We have taken the opportunity to resolve the drainage issues and ensure that children have a play surface that can be used all year round.

The governing body is keen to improve its contribution to the School and regularly undertakes specific governor training. We continue to review our succession planning and the skills required to continue to provide a positive impact on the School, its pupils and stakeholders. We await the further information on the implementation of the National Funding Formula and how this may have an impact on our small, rural, Christian community School.

The Government's white paper entitled 'Educational Excellence Everywhere' has changed the landscape for local authority controlled schools. The governing body continues to monitor the situation and wishes to assure stakeholders that the best interests of our pupils continues to be our priority. Our Christian distinctiveness is also important to us. 2016/17 is likely to be an interesting year for school governance.