

Governors' Report - Spring Term 2015

Governors have been busy this term: going into classes to see how the new curriculum is working; checking Health and Safety issues and looking at how the general budget money and the Pupil Premium(PP) money are being spent; We have listened to new staff who are all enjoying the experience of working at our school. Some governors have been involved in a variety of training sessions. This included work on preparing pupils for life in modern Britain, new governor training and a course on becoming a chairperson.

The governing body has to:

1. Ensure that the funding that comes into school is carefully managed and wisely spent for the benefit of all pupils.

At the end of the financial year, the school is allowed to carry over a small percentage of this year's budget. The Finance and Personnel committee has been busy spending the rest of this year's money on smartening the outside areas, buying better stage lights for the hall and buying new IT equipment, including a WiFi system. We have also set aside money to pay for further work to the drains and the Early Years' office and kitchen area which is to be refurbished. Some PP money will be used to buy more time to work with pupils to improve their reading and to improve our outdoor learning facilities.

2. Be responsible for the vision of the school by ensuring that high standards of teaching produce good learning experiences in a safe and stimulating atmosphere.

The School Development Plan (SDP) which identifies the priorities for the school to work on every year was reviewed by the curriculum committee. These priorities are guided by a wide range of information, including the views of parents and data from Raise On Line. Several of the governors attended a ROL session given by the School Improvement officer. We now have a much better idea about our progress, compared with other schools, at a local and at a national level. This will help when we join the staff in helping to write the new SDP in April.

3. To ensure that statutory obligations are fulfilled through policies and procedures that are regularly reviewed and updated.

The SEND offer gives details how we meet the needs of some pupils, who need specific help with their learning. This was reviewed by governors and this gave the new SENCo the opportunity to explain the priorities she had established. This curriculum committee also agreed the draft policy for the taking of medication in school. Some procedures involving the use of an emergency asthma kit were updated. Both items were reported back to the full governing body.

The school website needs updating to include specific information laid down by the Government. Governors are involved in checking the contents of the website to ensure that it complies with what is required.

4. Help and support the Head teacher in her work but also hold her to account for the school's educational progress.

Two governors worked with the school Adviser to help the Head teacher set important targets for the school in the coming year. The Raise On Line session gave a very clear indication of how the school is progressing and what we need to work on. Conversation with school Council members showed that pupils felt that behaviour in school was good. The SEND offer is on the website and reviewed regularly by governors.

Compiled by Trish McLachlan (Chair), Lisa Marie Meredith and Sarah Harrison (Vice-chair)