

## Governors' report – Autumn Term 2016

At the first meeting of the new School year, Telford and Wrekin pointed out the priorities for schools. There will be further cuts to school budgets, as the Government continues to reduce spending in local councils. The Government still have the intention to change all present schools into academies. The role of governors will become more important, making them even more responsible and accountable. The level of commitment of governors to their work in school will be noted and a National Database of governors will be set up.

This has been a very important term for the Governors in several ways.

Our on-going work is about managing the finances, checking the pupils and the staff have everything they need and making sure that the school is progressing well.

When money is tight, it is important that we spend it wisely, looking for best value, and that everyone can see how the money is spent. Our school budget is finely balanced, but we still have money for repairs. This term, we have agreed for work to be done on the adult toilet in the Early Years building and new flooring for part of the nursery. We are paying for some new music sessions involving woodwind instruments. We have increased pay for some teachers that will reflect their new work load and responsibilities. We have put money ready for urgent repairs to the drains for the KS2 girls' toilets and this will have to be done during the Christmas break. Look at our website to see how the Pupil Premium and Sports Funding money is allocated.

In our first meeting this term we also reviewed and updated policies and procedures concerned with the well-being and safety of pupils. These included; Child protection and Safeguarding policy; Sex Education policy; Health, Safety and Welfare policy and the Disability Access plan. We also have the concern for the well being of our staff and they feel better protected by an updated Pay policy and its Appeals procedure.

In our second meeting, we checked out what was happening in school. This was to see that it matches the school's priorities laid down in the yearly (SDP) and termly (RAP) planning. We looked at safeguarding and found that staff were confident about what to do if a situation arose. We also checked the Central register focusing on new staff and volunteers. We looked at the support plans for children who need extra or specialised help and talked to them about their work and the help they get. They were very proud to show us their books and we could see real progress. Mrs Evans reported back on how the Pupil Premium money is making a big difference to the progress of many pupils and especially in the Early Years where the Speech and Language work is making a huge difference.

Two weeks into the term, Mrs Middleton gave us good notice of her intention to retire at the end of the summer term in 2017. This was not a surprise to the governors or staff, but the process of replacing her did concentrate our minds powerfully about the sort of person we needed to carry forward our joint vision for the school. It was a very intense process, over October and November, from writing the advert, through the short-listing from 8 candidates to the final interviews of 3 strong contenders. In November, we finally picked someone who we think can do the job well.

We continue to support the Head in her determination to improve the school and the pupils' chances in life through their academic progress and achievement. We have challenged the data about the school KS2 results and have a clearer understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school. The Head's Performance Management targets for this year have been met and we have set new ones for her remaining time in school.

Lastly, we have had an external review of the governors' work. This is quite an important thing for us because it has been looking carefully at everything that the governing body has done, to decide if we are competent. We are glad to say that it found we were doing a good job. We hope you think so too. Thank you for your feedback about the school after the Parents' Evening this term. I have already replied to your queries from that, but we would also like to say how much all the staff and governors appreciate your positive comments about the school. Thank you very much and we hope you all have a good break with family and friends.

Trish Myachlam  
Chair of Governors