

Denton Primary School Governors' Annual Report to Parents 2017



The Governing Body of Denton Primary School for the year 2016-2017 comprised:

LEA Governor: Arthur Brenton

Community Governor: Lisa Gleave

Parent Governors: Sarah Pollard / Suzanne Addison

Co-opted Governors: Helena Newbold / Sean Usher

Teacher Governor: Louise Brown

Executive Headteacher: Jill Gardner

Clerk to Governors: Nicky Griffin

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a new school year and another busy year ahead for your Governing Body. In conjunction with the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team we have continued to ensure that the Governors have, between them, the relevant skills needed to keep driving our school forwards. Our Governors actively participate in tasks inside school so that we can see first-hand how the school operates and attend meetings to ensure we are on track with offering a high standard of education to the children of Denton Primary School.

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to fulfil a set of four core functions:

1. Setting the vision and strategic direction of the school:

This year the governors have:

- Reviewed our full Governing Body and recruited one new Governor according to the skills that they can offer our governing body.
- Welcomed the opportunity to work closely with the Governing Body of Yardley Hastings School to undertake an interview process which has led to the appointment of Louise Brown as our Executive Headteacher.
- With an Executive Head across two schools we have further utilised opportunities to make links and work together with the Governors of Yardley Hastings Primary School.
- Interviewed and successfully appointed a new Deputy Head Teacher with a skill set that enhances our school.
- Worked with Mrs Jill Gardner to ensure the school vision, aims and values are reviewed and updated.
- Worked with Mrs Gardner and Mrs Brown on the School Development Plan and ensured that these school targets are on track to be met.
- Produced and followed a Governor Action Plan which has linked closely to the School Development Plan to ensure that as Governors we achieve our objectives for the academic year.

- Sought views of parents through our annual questionnaire and provided feedback on these (Spring 2017).
- Set, reviewed and monitored performance targets for the Head Teacher, and ensured that these link to school improvement.
- Reviewed and approved school policies such as safeguarding, behaviour and special educational needs and disability.
- Some Governors have attended safeguarding training with governors and staff from Yardley Hastings Primary School. Other relevant training has been on finances, the monitoring of teaching and learning and training on reviewing and improving the efficiency of a governing body.

2. Holding the Head Teacher to account for the performance of the school:

This year the governors have:

- Performed regular analysis of all school data to identify the school's strengths and weaknesses, and actively challenge the Head Teacher to ensure robust systems are in place to address areas for improvement.
- Questioned and challenged the Head Teacher on milestones in the school improvement plan.
- Participated in 3 learning walks around the school with the Head Teacher to have a grounded understanding of how our school works, how the pupil data is used to measure progress and how each child's needs are met.
- Carried out audits of the safeguarding provision in school.
- Specifically ensured that the school inform the Governing Body how they support children with special educational needs and disabilities and those who are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding or require extra support.
- Regularly discussed items such as the curriculum, behaviour, quality of teaching and attainment to ensure that the Governors have a clear and broad understanding of the context of their work.

3. Ensuring financial resources are well spent:

This year the Governors have:

- Used the expertise of our Finance Governor, Bursar and Head Teacher to set a budget which demonstrates spending choices are made in line with school priorities.
- Monitored that finances used to enhance priority areas such as maths are used effectively.
- Ensured that additional funding for sports is used to provide good value and has an impact on sports within our school.
- Ensured that pupil premium funding is used to enhance not only their pupils academic progress but also access to opportunities such as music and trips.

4. Ensuring statutory duties are met and priorities approved:

This year the Governors have:

- Ensured that we have a specific safeguarding governor to work with the school designated safeguarding leads to review safeguarding responsibilities and provision.
- Reviewed the school website to ensure that it is up to date and complies with regulations. This includes details of how funding is spent and that up to date key policies are available.

Governor attendance at meetings has been at a very good level, with any absences accepted. The governing body of Denton Primary School is committed to improving all aspects of our provision, working with the Head Teacher, staff and pupils, together with the wider community. We value the views of all stakeholders and constantly strive to develop ourselves and others around us. The school continues to be successful with ongoing improvements being made.

Our Future Plans for 2017-2018

- To support our Head Teacher and Deputy Head and act as a critical friend in their first year in their new roles in our school.
- To have in place a clear and strategic Governor Action Plan that is reviewed at each meeting and links with the School Development Plan.
- To build upon our links with Yardley Hastings Primary School Governing body. We will utilise our strengths across both governing bodies to work together to ensure that our village schools continue to thrive and offer the best opportunities for the children and staff at each.
- To engage in learning walks with the Head Teacher to monitor specific areas from the school development plan.
- To continue to listen and seek out the views of Denton Primary School parents and children.
- To monitor the ongoing vision to raise the attainment of maths within our school.
- To reflect upon our Governing Body and have in place a succession plan to ensure that we have all the necessary skills to run effectively.
- To ensure that the school budget is set and financially robust to support learning through this year and is in strict accordance with Government policies and guidance.