

Denton Primary School Governors' Annual Statement Academic Year 2017/18

The Governing Body of Denton Primary School for the year 2017/18 comprised:

LEA Governor: Arthur Brenton (Chair)

Co-opted Governors: Lisa Gleave, Jackie Burney-Childs

Elected Parent Governors: Sarah Pollard (Vice Chair) Michelle Bourne

Teacher Governor: Rosie Gibson

Executive Head Teacher: Louise Brown

Clerk to Governors: Nicky Griffin

Dear Parents and Carers

The academic year 2017/18 was an extremely productive year for Denton Primary School and our governing body. Louise Brown took over at the beginning of the year as our new Executive Headteacher with responsibility for leading both our school and Yardley Hastings Primary School. She and the team of staff have worked tirelessly to move the schools on to improve outcomes for all the children.

At the beginning of the year, our governing body decided to pursue talks with Yardley Hastings Primary School and stakeholders from both schools to investigate the possibility of a formal federation. As we announced last term, after a lengthy and thorough consultation process, as of September 2018, federation is now a happy reality and we look forward to the opportunities that this will bring to both schools.

We would like to take this opportunity to mention staff who moved on during the last academic year: Jo Jeffrey (Year 2) moved on to pursue new challenges, Victoria Burrows (Year 5/6) relocated to Birmingham, and Mrs Silk (Y5/6) moved on for new adventures. We are hugely grateful for the contribution that they have all made here at Denton Primary School, in some cases over many years.

We would also like to offer a belated warm welcome to our new teaching assistant Laura Law who joined the school during the last term. We also welcome this September our new Oak Class Teacher Lauren Young and Claire Weedon, Teaching Assistant in Upper Key Stage 2. The children have already come home saying they have been having fun and have settled into their new class with Miss Young! We wish the new staff lots of luck in their new roles at our school.

Finally, we'd like to acknowledge our outgoing governor Lisa Gleave. She was in the role of Chair for many years and has worked incredibly hard at Denton Primary School. Lisa has been a committed, active and enthusiastic governor and has seen the school through many transitions. Lisa's advice and support can still be utilised as she has agreed to be an associate member of the new Federation Governing Body. We thank her very much.

Core Functions of a Governing Body:

The three **core functions** as indicated in Ofsted's inspection criteria are setting a strategic direction for the school, creating robust accountability and ensuring financial probity.

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

This year the Governors have:

- Reviewed and updated the school vision, aims and values which has notably led to the decision to form a federation with Yardley Hastings School. This has involved working closely with and getting to know the Yardley Hastings governors and their aims and learning from their experiences to enhance future outcomes for Denton Primary School.
- Analysed and reviewed a comprehensive range of data and feedback from monitoring sessions within school, with the LA School Improvement Manager and other external consultants along with parent and stakeholder surveys to identify areas of both strength and weakness within the school to ensure that these play an important part in the school development plan.
- Set, reviewed and monitored performance targets for the Head Teacher and ensured that these align to school improvement priorities.
- Supported the new Executive Head Teacher in her first year in post.
- Considered and approved new policies and reviewed and updated key existing policies. Governors have ensured that they have fulfilled their statutory duty by ensuring that all relevant policies are in place, have been updated appropriately and are available on the school website or via the school office. Notably this year has been the new GDPR legislation that was introduced in May 2018.
- Led a federation consultation program and had regular attendance at school events.
- Attended relevant training courses to improve their skills to support the whole school community and ensure that we continue to be effective in our role.

2. Creating robust accountability

This year, the Governors have:

- Performed regular and detailed analysis of all school data to identify the school's strengths and weaknesses.
- Benchmarked the school's performance against similar schools both locally and nationally.
- Robustly challenged the Head Teacher to ensure the school's systems are robust and address areas of weakness.
- Actively and regularly questioned the Head Teacher on details of the School Development Plan and ensured that resources continue to be directed effectively to areas of need.
- Monitored teaching and learning within the school. Visited school regularly to see how the school operates, how the children learn and to take part in learning walks and 'book scrutinies' to gain an understanding of pupil data and tracking methods, pupil progress and attainment.
- Carried out comprehensive audits of the safeguarding provision and regularly inspected the school's single central record. Continued to have a specific Safeguarding Governor to ensure that all safeguarding responsibilities continue to be met.
- Focussed on the progress and attainment of our pupils with SEND and ensured that SEND is a priority within the School Development Plan, appointing a new SENCO and encouraging improvement in this area.
- Focussed on outcomes for Pupil Premium.
- Regularly received in-depth information from middle/senior leaders at Governors' meetings regarding Curriculum, Quality of Teaching, Behaviour and Safety, and Attainment. This has ensured that as Governors we have a clear and broad understanding of the context of their work and helped shape strategic questions and decisions.
- Encouraged the school to work even more collaboratively with neighbouring Yardley Hastings Primary School to enhance the educational experience and attainment for our pupils that this approach will bring.

3. Ensuring financial probity:

This year, the Governors have:

- Ensured that the school's budget shows that all spending decisions are made in line with the school's priorities.
- Ensured that spending decisions for increased intervention support for individual children have had a positive outcome.
- Ensured that 'best value' principles have been adopted for all spending decisions.
- Ensured the pupil outcomes have been at the heart of all spending decisions and that strategic planning for the spending of other grants such as Sports Funding is robust.

Governor attendance at meetings has been at a good level and all absences have been unavoidable and accepted.

The Governing Body of Denton Primary School is committed to improving all aspects of our school, 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.

Plans for 2018-2019

- To continue to act as critical friend to our executive headteacher and her senior leadership team.
- To further cement collaborative working within the Federation of Denton and Yardley Hastings Primary Schools and to also look for opportunities outside of the federation.
- To better utilise resources and improve outcomes for our pupils.
- To continue to take part in regular learning walks alongside the Senior Leadership Team to better appreciate teaching and learning in the school and to seek external training from the LA in this area to improve in our roles.
- To continue to monitor assessment systems.
- To continue to ensure that we comply with all statutory duties.
- To continue to seek out and listen to the views of parents and children to improve the school experience for all.
- To work to ensure the staff teams integrate and build strong working relationships with each other, parents, staff and governors.
- To invest in and develop staff members to ensure they are well placed to take on more roles and responsibilities for the benefit of themselves and the wider school
- To reflect upon our governing body and have in place a succession plan to ensure that we have all the necessary expertise needed for future challenges.
- 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.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this report then please feel free to contact either the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors via the School Office. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

Arthur Brenton (Chair)

Sarah Pollard (Vice Chair)

September 2018