

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Kellington Primary School July 2018

In accordance with the Governments requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Kellington Primary School Governing Body 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**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

Governance Arrangements

The governing body of Kellington Primary School was reconstituted January 2015 in line with recent legislation and now consists of :

2 Parent Governors
1 Local Authority Governor
Headteacher
1 Staff Member
7 Co-opted Governors

This constitution gives the governing body the flexibility to recruit governors with the wide range of skills required. Some of our governors have an educational background who are able to monitor standards and interpret data, child protection and safeguarding issues, but others bringing skills such as Health and Safety, Human Resources and Financial understanding. Next year the constitution will change to only 11 Governors in line with the Star Multi-Academy Trust policy. I can assure you that all schools within the Trust will retain their local governing body.

The governing body has a programme of meetings throughout the school year and a committee structure that focuses on specific areas of governance.

Remarks from our Governors

Being part of the team, as a governor, that supports Kellington Primary to help children reach their full potential and experience an enjoyable and happy time in a school, is very fulfilling. "

It has always been a pleasure to visit the school to see how hard everyone works and to be made aware of the excellent standards that are achieved. However, more important for me, is to see how well the pupils work together and help each other throughout the school.

It was a joy to be shown the work in all aspects of English by Miss Beadnall, Subject leader. Our investment in her training has been more than rewarded. We were guided around the school by a confident, professional and knowledgeable middle leader, full of ideas to excite and interest to give our children opportunities to succeed. The phonics work particularly in Reception and KS1 has been an area of concern, this year national targets will be met.

This was my first visit as a Governor to the school assembly. I was proud of the children as they all knew who I was and what my reasons for attendance were.

We tend to expect high standards from our children on such occasions and this did not disappoint – the children were amazing. The story not only told the Christmas message but that the smallest was just as important and in this case more so than those older and bigger children. A good message to help our children give respect and consideration to everyone. The story also had angels from different countries with several children in each group from a country. We saw the dress and heard songs from China, Switzerland, Spain, Hawaii, North American Indian. We were able to include every child who had learnt lots of words, songs and where to go as they moved through the presentation. The production was very well attended by our parents.

Quotes from members of our Governing Body

The small audience were treated to a wonderful performance by our KS2 children. It was obvious they thoroughly enjoyed taking part. New skills had been learnt and they really got into the characters they were playing. The songs were good fun and it was obvious our children loved the humour. Considering due to late dates for the SATs the play had been learnt in a very short time and this was admirable. Our teachers had obviously worked very hard and the help from Mr Hookham invaluable. We have come to expect a very high standard and again this is what we experienced, I think they get better and better. The play obviously ticked the boxes required for Drama Curriculum.

As a governing body undertaking a new type of monitoring activity, we reflected on this at the start of the FGB meeting. We were all in agreement that we found it tremendously useful to focus on one area and look together for evidence of this. Challenges and questions were posed and responded to by the headteacher who was on hand throughout, therefore the usual questions on this form and not necessary. In summary, we are satisfied this area of the SDP 2016/17 and outcome from the previous Ofsted inspection has been met fully and such opportunities will continue to be offered to our children throughout their lives at Kellington Primary School. We noted that the new 'vision' is on display all around the school, including the website (see photo 1 below) and was pleasing to hear how the new vision is driving forward expectations for all at Kellington.

Being a part of a team of people working together for the future of the children at Kellington is vital to the effectiveness of our governing body. No question is ever left unanswered and we are all able to contribute openly in a supportive forum knowing we have the best interests of the key stakeholders at heart.

I have been a governor for three years now and have become a co-opted member as we were keen to ensure the governing body had a range of appropriate skills. Working as an Academy Improvement Officer, freelance primary science consultant and primary teacher allows me to bring these operational skills to a strategic level.

Being a new governor at Kellington School I look forward to getting to know the school and my local community more. I decided to put myself forward as a governor because as a teacher I can offer skills in education and have an interest in how governance in school impacts on and challenges the school.

Being a school governor means I able to do what I can to help our school be the best possible place for children to learn and grow happily and safely. I am able to bring skills and experience to the Governing Body It also helps me feel more involved in my own children's education. To support the teachers and staff who do a great job developing our children's academic and life journey.

I became a parent Governor in 2004 when my youngest child started Kellington School as I wanted to do what I could to ensure the school was the best that it could be. I then went on to become a member of staff while remaining on the Governing Body. I am now a co-opted Governor and remain on the Governing Body as I feel very strongly that the pupils, staff, parents and wider community deserve the best educational establishment that we can possibly give them.

Lovely to greet adults and children as they come into school.
Delightful to see the youngest children in school participate in the whole assembly. Although a little overwhelming for some of them they managed very well.

Attendance record of governors

A record is kept by the clerk to the governing body of attendance at meetings. Meetings need to be quorate to ensure decisions can be made. We are fortunate as our governors rarely miss meetings and if so it is for valid reasons.

The work we have done on our committees and in the governing body meetings

We have two sub-committees which are School Improvement and Resources.

School improvement committee monitor the termly cohort picture and assessments to ensure targets are met and questions the intervention and steps taken in order to give our children the best possible education and that their individual needs are met.

The Resources committee are responsible for all financial matters ensuring the money we have is spent well. We question all contracts making sure we get best value. This group is responsible for the buildings, maintenance, health and safety and staffing issues.

Some of the many steps taken to strengthen the Governing Body :

- Strengthening the GB by implementing training sessions, this included working together as a team, Ofsted Framework, Data Analysis, Safe Guarding, Health & Safety and more recently Curriculum 2014 and Life without Levels
- Implementing a governor Induction Programme
- Ofsted judgement is yet again 'Good' and will work towards 'Outstanding'
- Robust and vigorous challenge
- Year structure of meetings which relate to the SDP similarly with our sub-committees, eg Resources Meeting structured to encompass financial deadlines
- Annual Governor Action Plan again relating to SDP and SEF
- Adopted a Governor Visits Policy and the use proformas to help governors have a focus for their visit, to improve their monitoring but to also ensure they do not overstep their responsibility, operational is the responsibility of the HT and strategic management that of governors
- Governor Skills Audit
- Adoption of NGA Code of Practice
- Clerk produces an action sheet relating to minutes which are reviewed each meeting and stay on the list until completed.
- The impact relating to our children is measured and minuted at every meeting.

The sub-committees annually review all school policies and in some cases implement new ones. This is a time consuming job but when we come into school and see those policies in action it shows just how worthwhile our role is.

Strategic Planning for the future :

Governors will continue to build on the school's strengths which are :

- Creative Curriculum
- Small School Family Ethos
- Improved provision for inclusion
- Key Stage Results
- Financial Health
- Excellent ethos in particular behaviour
- Active member of the STAR Multi-Academy Trust
- Ofsted - to continue and build upon our judgement of 'good'

Areas of weakness to be developed in line with our SDP and Ofsted targets :

- Developing Outstanding Leadership
- Improved EYFS Practice
- Sustained accelerated progress in Literacy
- Raise attainment of vulnerable learners particularly those with SEN

During the last 3 years Kellington School has been lead by an outstanding Headteacher. Under her leadership we are now a school judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' yet again. Her care for each individual child in our school is wonderful to see. She shares her expertise throughout school giving much of her time to hands-on support to all our children. She has also made every effort to work with our parents which is so important for the education of our children.

How to contact the Governing Body

Information about the school's governing body is available on the governors' page of the schools website.

Kellington Primary School Governing body membership is currently published on our website.