

## **Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Kellington Primary School July 2016**

In accordance with the Government's 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 and are able to monitor standards and interpret data, child protection and safeguarding issues, with others bringing skills such as health and safety, human resources and financial understanding. We currently have two vacancies and are constantly looking to recruit new governors with skills we need.

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 about their role**

- My work as a governor this year has included attending regular meetings to challenge and support the school, links and visits as a class governor to Rubies class and visits to lots of school events. Our meetings are effectively structured and include open and honest discussions. Events have included the Christmas fair, the summer fair, open day, sports day, parent's evenings, KS1 Christmas performances and KS2 summer show. We have welcomed a new headteacher to the school and have been impressed by her dedication to providing the best education for all our pupils and getting to know our children and families so well. Mrs Parker is a constant presence at the start of the school day for all who need her and provides us as governors with up to date information about the school to enable us to do our jobs effectively. In addition, I have volunteered at

school outside my governor role, more specifically, to lead an after school science club. This has really allowed me to get to know many more pupils and their strengths and love of learning. During another successful governor week this year, the school was an open house for us to visit freely and we are more and more a part of the furniture, a point exemplified at the recent sports day when the children started chanting for a 'governor's race!' Next year perhaps?

- Being a governor allows me to see how the school runs from a different perspective. As a teacher myself, the focus is very much in the classroom, the progress, attainment and wellbeing of the pupils which is the driving force. Those are also the driving force for the governing body, however I also see the wider issues within school, particularly the resources and finance side and how important this is to the running of the school, in particular how pupil numbers have such an impact on the school finances.
- I attended the school's open morning and summer fair which was a great opportunity to share our school with potential parents and bring together parents to support the school.
- It has been a good experience so far. I am planning my calendar now so I can make more visits next year and based on the new governor's structure I am hoping to become more involved and provide support where it is needed.
- As health and safety governor I have seen another year of excellent adherence to health and safety procedures at school by staff and pupils. I have observed the children in their classroom environments working hard and learning in fun and differing ways. I also attended an assembly where all the children demonstrated some Indian dancing that they had been taught by a guest Indian dance teacher which was an amazing experience.
- Being a part of the governing body of Kellington School has been a great privilege. The children are always happy and excited about their school and are extremely welcoming to governors when we visit. The staff are always professional and fantastic with the kids. I look forward to another great year!
- I would like to say that during my time as a Governor I have enjoyed seeing the development of the school and being part of the continuing improvement of facilities and opportunities for the pupils. I have enjoyed class visits, noting the delivery of policies we have agreed in meetings and the effect on the progress and achievement of the children. Also it is so good to be greeted by name by pupils when I am out shopping or whatever and being accepted by them as part of the school's "team".

## **Quotes from members of our Governing Body**

- I have just returned from being in the audience at the dress rehearsal for Oliver, this year's KS2 show and I felt compelled to email you all immediately. A simply stunning performance (and trust me I've seen a few school shows over the years!) showing what we all already know: we have amazingly talented, beautiful, clever and wonderful children at Kellington Primary School and it is simply the best bit of the job to see it first hand. From the singing and props to the scenery, choral numbers and lighting it was tremendous. We are very lucky governors to have all this happening in our tiny school.
- As Chair I could not miss this opportunity to once again congratulate our children. Oliver was absolutely brilliant but this was the culmination of their Drama and Music education during the year which has gone from strength to strength. Miss Kinsley, Miss Beadnell and our wonderful volunteer music teacher Mr Hookham have worked hard with the children all year and provided opportunities for our children to learn and enjoy their Music and Drama.

## **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 monitors 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 new curriculum continues to be embedded into our children's learning. This year has been made difficult due to government changes in the way our children are measured. New and more demanding key stage testing has taken place for the first time this year. During the year we have received excellent support from NYCC and the STAR Alliance. Our staff have been able to share in many training events to enhance their continued professional development. Our interactions with Alliance schools have created some excellent sporting activities which, in a small school, are often difficult for our children to experience.

The Resources committee is 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. We are fortunate to have an excellent business manager who endeavours to get best value for our money and she keeps Governors well informed. We have also been able to make some savings because we are part of the STAR Alliance and some group purchasing has taken place.

From this group we have a fundraising working party which consists of the headteacher, school business manager, governors and chair of the PTA. Governors have previously been responsible for raising money from Awards for All to fund the computer hub and more recently money for the new canopy to enhance the space in the year 1-2 area alongside donations made from local businesses. The PTA continue to do a fantastic job for the school for which we continually thank them. Our current fundraising project is for a canopy for our nursery and reception area to enhance the outside learning. It would be wrong of me not to mention the excellent Summer Fayre. The work and planning by the PTA resulted in a fun filled happy day where families were able to come and take part. Our thanks to them and also for those who volunteered to help on the day and not forgetting the many donations made by you all.

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

- Strengthening the GB by implementing training sessions, this included, Data Analysis, and Life without Levels. Many governors also attended training provided by North Yorkshire, STAR Alliance and other educational bodies
- Implementing a governor Induction Programme
- Ofsted judgement is now 'Good' and working to maintain this judgement with further improvements in the future.
- 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 visits proformas to help governors have a focus for their visit and to improve their monitoring but to also ensure they do not overstep their responsibility - operational management 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.
- At the end of each meeting we measure our impact of our decisions for the children.

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
- Financial Health
- Excellent ethos in particular behaviour
- Active member of the STAR Alliance
- Ofsted to remain good or better

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
- Improve Key Stage results
- Raise attainment of vulnerable learners particularly those with SEN

Last September we welcomed Mrs Diane Parker as our new headteacher. This has been an excellent appointment, her commitment and hard work is admirable. Mrs Parker quickly got to know our children and of course many parents too. She is respected by her staff team and morale is excellent. Mrs Parker has built on the work of her predecessor but also made some very positive changes. For example the change to arrival at school each morning which is now calm and ordered. Miss Kinsley and Miss Beadnell have also joined us during the last year and again become an asset to our school. Staff changes are sometimes difficult for children so we are pleased that this year we have a settled staff in school. Although Miss Honeyman-Smith is leaving Mrs Bower is returning to full time with our Key Stage 1 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.**