

GOVERNOR STATEMENT

Annual Report 2016-17

The Governing Body of this school publishes an annual statement describing how we have carried out our responsibilities during the year. This is in line with recommendations from the Department of Education.

The Governing Body has 3 main functions:

- To monitor strategic direction and ethos of the school
- To support and challenge the head teacher in providing the best possible education for the pupils and monitoring performance
- To ensure the school is resourced well and to ensure best value for the school

The full Governing Body met 4 times in 2016/17. In addition the 4 committees met once per term. These committees have responsibilities delegated from the Full Governing Body. Governor attendance is good and we have not had to cancel a meeting because it was not quorate (the number of governors required to make legal decisions).

There are a number of documents the Governors use to monitor the school:

- The school **Self-Evaluation Form (SEF)**. The school evaluates itself against the current Ofsted criteria. It is composed of a number of sections which the governors review in turn. In 2016/17 the evaluation was that Handcross was GOOD and this was supported by the end of KS2 SATs results that were above the national averages.
- The **School Development Plan (SDP)** identifies areas of development through the year. Key issues are agreed by the head teacher and staff. These are scrutinised by the Governing Body at the start of the school year and they monitor progress against this schedule on a regular basis through visits and meetings. This year Governors monitored the use of TAs to maximise children's learning, the use of Spellodrome throughout the school (the use of which has raised writing scores by 9%), EY provision and higher achiever maths tuition.
- The **School's Financial Value Statement (SFVS)** is a self-evaluation and audit toolkit which enables Governors to ensure the school budget is managed properly. It is reviewed by the Finance and Staffing Committee, the head teacher and the Business Manager.

An important part of the Governors' role is to examine the school's performance data to ensure all pupils make expected progress. This is carried out by the Children and Learning Committee and the Data Review meeting.

The main responsibility for overseeing the financial performance of the school falls to the Finance and Staffing Committee who work with the head teacher and business manager to monitor spending and make sure money is well spent against SDP priorities. This year the biggest spend has been on Early Year resources and interactive TV type screens in the classrooms. Termly reporting keeps Governors up-to-date on school spending and enables Governors to identify any issues.

A key issue on the SDP has been introducing the new Assessment system (Target Tracker) and the use of Spellodrome to improve spelling, which underpins achievement in writing

The Governing Body also took part in Safeguarding training given by our Safeguarding lead Governor.

Future Plans 2017-18.

The following SDP priorities have been identified:

- To adopt the new on-line Assessment and Data Tracking tool, Target Tracker across Year 1 to Year 6
- Ensure reading is mostly OUTSTANDING throughout the school by spending £5000 on improving book stock and teaching staff spending more curriculum time on reading
- To ensure more children achieve ARE in maths reasoning
- To ensure writing scores improve, including use of Spellodrome. The Governing body approves the purchase of 60 iPads to support this
- To increase ARE in IT from 85% to 90%
- IN EYFS, to integrate the use of 'Tapestry', a software package, into EYFS practice and ensure children are involved in more self-initiated play
- NQTs are to receive training from an external adviser in PE and Dance
- To install Astro-Turf on the field behind the school to further increase the range of sporting activities for all ability groups

Jan Elliott

Chair of Governors January 2018