

Governor Update 2018

“Your feedback is important to us” is something that you hear a lot, but I can honestly say that we genuinely value the views of everyone in our school community, to help us understand what’s working well and what can be improved. At our most recent governors meeting, in July, we discussed the results of the recent Parent and Carer Survey and realised that an area where we could definitely do better was in helping you understand who the governors are and what we do.

We plan to highlight governor activities more regularly in the Noticeboard throughout next year, so that you can get a feel for how we help to support, guide and (if necessary) challenge the head and her team, but I thought I’d use this annual update to start that process by describing a bit about how we work. If you’re more interested in who we actually are and what we’re responsible for, there’s information on the school website (and more to come in next year’s updates).

As a governing body, we meet four times a year, although those meetings tend to be a review of what’s going on and to sign off policies and budgets. The “real” work happens in our three committees, which meet several times per term and have time to take a much more detailed look at how the school is working, and how well we’re developing.

Our Teaching and Learning committee oversees everything to do with the curriculum and pupil progress. As the requirements of the National Curriculum develop, we need to stay up-to-date and ensure that that we’re strong in all areas. This year this has included a focus on handwriting and presentation, new planning tools for maths lessons, supporting pupils to ensure that more children meet “age related expectations” in their assessments and reviewing our extended provision (breakfast and after school club) arrangements. We try to understand how these plans impact on the children, and this year they’ve told us what they think of maths teaching, handwriting, homework, science week and enrichment lessons. Their feedback is always thoughtful, interesting and honest!

The Resources committee looks at all of the school’s resources – not just physical ones (like the school

Phil Oddy
Chairperson



building) but also our most important resource, our fantastic staff. We are proud to have a great team who are passionate about educating children. The committee is also plays a key role in the marketing of the school, as well as this year making plans for further development of the playground, and revising our policies for volunteers and for data protection in light of the new GDPR regulations.

Our Finance committee monitors spending against the budget, which we set every year, and planning ahead for the future. You will have heard about how challenging managing schools with current funding levels can be and so we work with a five-year plan to make sure that we’re anticipating our future needs, and understand the risks if the circumstances change. I’m pleased to say that, through the hard work of governors and the school leadership team, we’re in a better place than many schools and are confident that we can continue to develop whilst keeping the school on a sound financial footing.

The final element is governors spending time in school. This year alone, individual governors have visited to understand everything from Early Years provision to health and safety and safeguarding. Curriculum visits have reviewed Maths, English, Science and Arts, and governors have met regularly with our Improvement Partner – an external advisor – to get an impartial view of the school’s strengths and areas for development. Governor reports from their visits are invaluable in helping us understand any issues, celebrate successes and have confidence that the school really is performing as we expect it to. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank every governor for their hard work over the year.

As we come to the end of another successful school year, I wish everyone a great summer. I hope you have a much needed rest, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September. For those of you who are moving on, we hope you have enjoyed your time at Tannery Drift and wish you all the best for your future.

Phil Oddy

Chair of Governors

July 2018