



Governors' Impact Statement 2014 - 2105

The Governing Body at Ide Primary School has had a marked impact on the school during the academic year 2014-15. Listed below are areas of particular significance.

Strategic Directions and School Improvement Plan

Setting the strategic direction of the school is a vital role of governors. To this end, analyses of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, along with the political, economic, sociological and technological environment in which the school is set, have been reviewed and updated twice during the year. Within this context, the school's priorities and strategic directions are determined.

Governors continually monitor the School Improvement Plan (SIP). They receive reports from the Head Teacher half termly relating to the SIP and monitor the progress towards achieving targets and goals. Raising behaviour standards across the school has been a particular focus for governors and staff this year and this will continue into the new term. Raising attainment in Maths has been another focus. A number of successful maths workshops have been organised and an improvement in Key Stage 2 Maths results over previous years has been achieved.

Governors played a significant role in the development of the school's revised statement of Ethos, Mission and Values. In particular the concepts of the school aspiring to eight values, together with displaying them around the school and the introduction of a school song to promote community cohesion were ideas stimulated and facilitated by members of the Governing Body in consultation with staff and other stakeholders.

Governor visits

Individual governors are linked with members of staff to ensure a thorough understanding of teaching and learning, to provide a mechanism for monitoring the School Improvement Plan and to foster mutual understanding. Written reports are submitted by governors after each visit.

External scrutiny and review

The Governing Body is committed to the principle of periodic review of the school by external bodies and experts. To this end, audits are regularly carried out in the areas of finance, safeguarding and health & safety. The governors intend to commission an access audit during the current academic year.

In February, an independent "deep review" of teaching and learning was commissioned and conducted along Ofsted principles. Areas for improvement were identified in a report to the Governing Body and these have been addressed in the course of the year.

Policy review

The Governing Body has instituted a policy review cycle to ensure that all policies and guidance documents are relevant and up to date. The most recent addition has been the school's E-Safety Policy.

Pupil progress data and standards

These have been regularly monitored by the Governing Body's Pupil, Curriculum and Standards Committee.

Financial management

Governors receive half-termly budget monitoring statements from the Business Manager, as well as information on financial benchmarking. These statements are closely scrutinised by governors, and the Business Manager regularly attends meetings to answer governors' questions. Finance Governors also produce the Schools Financial Value Statement. The impact of the governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous. A healthy financial position has been maintained throughout the year.

Staff recruitment

Governors are closely involved in the recruitment and selection of staff and use the appointment processes to ensure that high quality staff are appointed who share the school's values, mission and aims. In February 2015, governors appointed a new Head Teacher - Sharon Tarr – who took on the role in September 2015. The Governing Body has designated a governor to take a particular interest in staff welfare.

Buildings and maintenance

Issues concerning buildings and maintenance are regularly monitored by the Governing Body's Resources Committee. This includes an annual site "walkabout" by governors to identify particular priorities. A rolling programme is maintained.

Website

Governors have had a major input in developing a new website for the school. This went live in July 2015.

Community

The governors have played a part in fostering and encouraging links between school and community. A number of volunteers work in the school and facilities such as the School Hall and Multi-use Games Area are used by members of the public.

Other activities

Governors bring a wide variety of experience and expertise to the school. This ranges from the strategic and managerial through to undertaking practical tasks, whether in the classroom or more generally.

Nigel Walsh
(Chair of Governors)

Madelane Wright
Clerk to Governors
September 2015