

GOVERNOR NEWS

Governors' Impact Statement



Chair of Governors

Paul Elley

Welcome to the third of our annual newsletters outlining what the Governors do and the impact our activities have upon the life and work of the school. This statement covers the 2017/18 academic year.

As last year we want to take this opportunity to outline our role, who we are and how we organise ourselves.

Introduction

The Governors have 3 core strategic functions to deliver, these are:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school**
- 2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

In doing so we hope that we can help to make our school the very best it can be for the benefit of our children and be even better today than we were yesterday.

Firstly, we would like to congratulate our amazing staff team at Goldfield on their outstanding performance again this year. The annual assessment, by our local Hertfordshire advisor, has confirmed that the school continues to be Outstanding. This really is impressive when you consider all the changes and uncertainty which staff, who are already busy, have had to cope with.

Progress and achievement levels have been sustained under the new Primary National Curriculum and revised assessment arrangements, both of which have involved major change along with increased pitch and pace. Well done to everybody!

As you will have seen from the Headteachers newsletters, during the course of the year we have said goodbye to four longstanding governors. Thankfully we have been able to replace them with four enthusiastic volunteers who are already making a positive impact on our work.



'The highly effective governing body contributes very significantly to sustaining high achievement and to the school's improvement. Governors are fully involved in monitoring the impact of their policies while individual 'governor champions' track priorities in the strategic plan. Governors undertake regular training to extend their expertise including in understanding assessment data. This means their questioning of the Headteacher is challenging and pertinent. They are quite aware how good teaching is and how performance is linked closely to salary progression.'

The Governors were delighted to support this year's focus upon 'Science and Technology'

How we work

We have regular meetings throughout the school year of both the Full Governing Body alongside various Committees and groups. We also interact with the school through visits in our roles as parents, grandparents and helpers and at social events. Through these activities we know the school well, this is important in carrying out our role effectively.

Governing Body

We meet twice per term as a Governing Body to consider key issues. At each meeting we receive a report from the Head on progress against targets in the School Strategic Plan and review any issues from our Committees. Once per year we approve the School Budget and the School Strategic Plan for the year. At the end of the year we review the progress and attainment of the pupils at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2). We also discuss a wide range of other topics ranging from how to improve ourselves as Governors to the latest rules and regulations from The Department for Education and guidance from Ofsted.

Other Activities

Music Garden

The wonderful Music Garden is a tremendous addition to the facilities of our school. This is something that we would not have been able to afford from school funds so a big thank you to the FROGS and everybody who supports their events.

Training

This year we have devoted more time to training than any that I can remember. We have had two evening training events for the whole governing body. These covered some of the more formal aspects of our responsibilities. In addition individual governors have attended a range of courses and briefings on aspects of their individual responsibilities including induction courses for the new governors.

Other Activities

A number of Governors have been working with the School to make sure that we meet the new GDPR requirements. This has been a big task involving reviewing all the data we hold, new and updated policies, privacy statements and more. The bulk of the work has now been done some more will be needed as new law beds in and we get further guidance from the Department of Education. As well as the GDPR group a second working party supported Hertfordshire's delegation of Nursery admissions back to schools. Thanks to this working party the process ran smoothly.

Committees and Champions

Most of the detailed work is carried out through 2 committees—**Learning Matters** and **Resource Matters**. The **Policy Review Group** and **Health and Safety Monitoring Group** sit within these committees ensuring all statutory policies and procedures are in place and regularly reviewed. Each Governor also has a role to “Champion” a subject or area which is important in the School Strategic Plan. The role of the Champion is to become the “eyes and ears” of the Governors in their subject area and report back to their colleagues on progress so that we can monitor and challenge the progress and attainment of pupils on an informed basis.

Professional expertise and Self Evaluation

Within the Governing Body we can draw on a wide range of expertise which we can use to support the school through projects and initiatives. Our skills include, Accountancy, Architecture, IT, Project Management, Education. An annual process of self evaluation ensures we remain effective and compliant in all areas leadership.

School Strategic Planning

As Governors it is our role to monitor the progress and impact of actions set out within the School Strategic Plan. This year the Schools work to review curriculum planning and ensure creativity, inspiring the children with topical events, has been a real success. The interest and understanding has been clear during our visits, focused project weeks have engaged children with landmarks such as the Angel of the North and events such as the anniversary of the rising of the Mary Rose. A clear impact upon the quality of teaching and learning.

Safeguarding

The safeguarding of our pupils is and must always be our priority. Goldfield provides a safe and secure environment in which to learn and grow. Like everything else, our understanding of safeguarding changes and evolves as time passes. This means that we need to attend training to keep up to date with best practice as well as reviewing the annual report and policies around safeguarding. Safeguarding will remain an area for continued focus for the coming academic year.

Our Governing Body



Visit the website http://www.goldfield.herts.sch.uk/about_us/governors.html to find out more about the governors and their roles.

Strategic Direction

Last year we decided that the time was not right for us to become an academy. We still believe that it is possible we will move to becoming an academy at some stage in the future. We will review our options regularly over the coming years and look for new options that might be attractive to the school. If, and when we believe it is right to become an academy there will be a full consultation with parents and other stakeholders before any change takes place.

Financial Situation

We continue to face a difficult financial situation. Governors have worked hard with the Head to try to make sure that our budget is balanced while still allowing us to afford to pursue the key objectives in the School Strategic Plan. With careful planning we have a budget for 2018/2019 which achieves this (although in real terms our income is down compared to last year). We have only been able to set this budget because the school is due to be full again next year. As long as the school is full, or close to full, again the year after we believe that with careful housekeeping we will continue to have a stable budget. Beyond that without some changes to our funding it looks like we will face real problems. Our thanks go to the FROGS whose excellent fundraising events give us the opportunity to continue to develop projects and add new resources to our classrooms and shared spaces.

We hope that you have found this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have any comments or suggestions for future issues please contact me via the School.
admin@goldfield.herts.sch.uk

Best Wishes

Paul Elley

Chair of the Governing Body

'Governors keep a very close eye on finances and through careful planning have been able to fund the new Nursery building. They have sharpened the allocation of the pupil premium so that it is fully in support of eligible pupils. Self-evaluation has led to a change in committee structure, the impact of which is now being considered.'

Ofsted