



Governing Body Annual Report

A summary of activity, aims and outcomes of the Local Governing Board for the academic year September 2018 to July 2019

“Championing the needs and aspirations of all children and families”

Committees	Local Governing Board (LGB) There are two subcommittees of the LGB. These are a separate Standards, Curriculum and Behaviour Committee and a Finance Committee
Local Governing Board	Heather Hurst (Chair), Kwaku Afram, Laura Martin, Marcella Ray-Aigbokhai, Mr Wilson, Mrs Kennedy, Mr Warlow, Michelle Haywood, Eammon Hunt

Local Governing Board (LGB)

The role of the LGB is to support the strategic direction of the school and to challenge, monitor and review the educational offer for pupils, finances, management of staff and compliance with policies.

One of the key sections of this committee is the head teacher’s report which includes an update on teaching, staffing, complaints and plans for the school. Governors have an opportunity to ask questions about these plans and ensure they are well thought through and will bring improvements for the children. Last year Mr Wilson had just joined the school, and we were focusing on his initial assessment and plans for the school. He is now very well settled in and we have begun looking in detail at the changes he is bringing about. This has included changes to the way staff are supported to develop teaching skills, and we have been asking questions about the difference this has made. It is clear teaching is good across the school and this is having a really positive impact on the children’s learning.

There has been a strong focus this year on attendance, as ensuring children are in school and ready to learn is vitally important to their success. The staff team have been working closely with parents, and we have seen a good improvement in attendance. The governors review attendance figures each meeting to ensure this continues.

Governors also closely monitor how all the adults in school ensure the wellbeing and safety of children through safeguarding procedures. We have reviewed training figures to ensure all adults in school are properly trained. We also check that if anyone spots anything they are concerned about that this is raised with the right person and acted on. Mr Parslow has also been providing regular information to governors about different safeguarding topics, so we are informed about the different issues the safeguarding team have to be aware of and act on.

Standards, Curriculum and Behaviour Committee

The role of this committee is to focus on the schools targets, how the school is supporting all children to progress and how the school is supporting children’s behaviour and development.

The previous Ofsted inspection highlighted how polite and well behaved the children are. As well as discussing behaviour in committee meetings, governors also try and spend time in school, observing lessons and different activities. This allows us to see how the teachers guide positive behaviour and quickly spot and address any concerns. We are really pleased to see that Woodhouse children continue to behave well and make us very proud of them.

The senior leadership team have been working hard to look at how curriculum topics are chosen, developed and taught. We have heard about the changes which are planned for next year, and we will be monitoring the impact this has as new topics start to be taught. We have also discussed the role of homework, and how to strike a balance between ensuring children have time to rest and relax, and deepen their knowledge through independent work at home. A new homework policy is being developed and we will review this when it is ready. We have continued to closely monitor the teaching and progress of reading within each year group.

We are pleased to hear of the continued success of the accelerated reader, and how the programme supports children's development in reading. This is a popular programme with the children, who have read 63,293,566 words and taken 7820 quizzes to date. This is a fantastic achievement.

One of the changes being introduced over the next few years is teaching around relationships. The ethos of the school is that all differences are respected, which includes differences in our families, religion, race and culture. As the relationship curriculum is introduced within school, parents will be invited in to hear exactly what is being taught and to be able to ask questions before the lessons start. The governors fully support the new curriculum, but urge parents to come in and speak to staff either at the planned meeting, or when you are in school, so that you know how the curriculum is going to be implemented.

Last year the decision was made to split year 6 into three classes. This has been a real success and has helped the children to deepen their learning, and to be ready for SATs and the move to secondary school. The benefits we have seen mean we fully support the decision to maintain this going forward and we look forward to seeing how well they have done in the SATs.

Finance Committee

The role of the finance committee is to approve the annual budget, monitor spending and ensure the school remains in a strong financial position.

Last year was a particular challenge for us, as we were without a business manager and it was difficult to review detailed budget sheets. This has now been resolved and our new business manager has started. We are in a good financial position, which allows us to plan for developments in school. This has included new smart boards already, a new roof which doesn't leak when it rains and plans to upgrade the toilets.

Next Steps

To keep parents informed about who the governors are. Please look out for further information in the newsletter and some new posters in school.