

Governors' Annual Report to Parents Autumn 2016

We are fortunate at Old Park Primary School to have a Governing Body with a wide range of skills and a commitment to undertaking a variety of responsibilities for the benefit of our pupils, parents/carers, staff and the wider community. Our key responsibilities are:

- Setting the strategic direction of the school
- Setting challenging targets and ensuring high educational standards are met
- Managing the school budget ensuring best value
- Ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum, accessible for all pupils
- Ensuring all statutory policies and procedures are followed, including Safeguarding and Health & Safety
- Acting as a 'critical friend' to the Headteacher and Senior Leaders

Following our last Ofsted inspection we were judged to be a good school.

The governing body makes sure its members are properly trained and have a good understanding of the progress that the school is making. Governors have a detailed knowledge of the school's targets and use expert advice to be able to compare the pupils' achievement to others in the country. They have a very clear view of the school's finances and ensure that money is always spent where it will best benefit the pupils' education. This includes pupils known to be eligible for the pupil premium. Governors are very thorough in their questioning of the headteacher's plans, making sure that any underachievement that is identified is dealt with successfully. (Ofsted 2012)

What we do:

Our governing body meets at least twice per term, specifically focussing on Standards, Finance & Personnel, Health & Safety, and Inclusion. We also visit regularly throughout the year to gain independent information about the progress of the school and meet with the Headteacher, Senior Leaders, and staff to participate in school development planning and action planning.

We analyse detailed reports prepared by the Headteacher and Senior Leaders each term, along with a variety of external data sources including the annual Local Authority Summary Report, Ofsted Data Dashboard and RAISEOnline Governor Pages to review the school's progress, identify areas for development and to evaluate our own impact on School Improvement to ensure we are consistently striving to achieve the best outcomes for all pupils.

We conduct the annual Headteacher Performance Management appraisal along with an external adviser ensuring challenging targets are set which, in turn, filter down through 'whole school' Performance Management Targets for all staff to ensure that the process is rigorous and all staff are held to account.

Our Strategic Vision for the school

Over the course of this academic year we have devised a set of six overarching Key Performance Indicators which now form part of the whole school Strategic Plan for 2016-2017. These are:

1. 85% of pupils will reach national expectations in all year groups in reading, writing and maths.
2. The gap between the attainment of 'all pupils' and disadvantaged pupils continues to close.
3. Attainment in writing will be at least in line with the national average for children meeting the expected level and achieving the higher level.
4. 100% of teaching and learning will be at least good, with the majority being outstanding.
6. The gap between the attendance of disadvantaged pupils and all pupils will close.

Our successes this year (2015-2016)

- Developed provision in Nursery and Reception in Literacy and maths so that 71% of children attained a good level of development by July 2016 (49% 2015). This represents a 3 year upward trend and ensured that more children are prepared for their transition into Year 1.
- Maintaining excellent progress for all groups of pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2, particularly in maths and reading, ensuring outcomes have remained above national average at the end of Key Stage 2 in reading, maths, spelling punctuation and grammar and combined reading, writing and maths.
- The number of pupils passing the Y1 phonic screen continues to be above the national average.
- A continued improvement in attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils as a three year upward trend.
- Successful implementation and delivery of the new Curriculum.
- Continued success of the In Harmony programme including three overseas visits (Milan, Gottenburg and Toronto) many performances and a celebration concert with 380 performers introduced by Julian Lloyd Webber.
- Finalist for the national Music Department of the Year award for the second year.
- A wide range of sporting successes and opportunities for pupils to participate in sporting activities within school and representing the school at event across the borough
- Many school visits and visitors into school to enhance children's learning including Arthog residential, Arthog Outreach, trip to London, educational visits and journeys linked to the curriculum, historical and cultural groups visiting the school.
- Continued strong support from parents/carers.

How did we help the school to achieve this?

- Regular visits to the school to monitor school improvement; meeting with school leaders, observing the work of the school, accompanying school leaders on learning walks, participating in school development planning and analysing data.
- Attending regular and high quality training to ensure we are abreast of the latest legislation and fully aware of our current role and responsibilities.
- Ensuring the school's financial systems are rigorously monitored to ensure best value for pupils.
- Ensuring that Pupil Premium Grant funding has been specifically targeted to those pupils who are eligible to receive it and that gaps in attainment continue to close as a result of interventions funded by the grant.
- Monitoring policies and procedures to ensure they meet the needs of the school and ensure the behaviour, safety and welfare of all pupils.
- Assisting in the process for appointing high quality staff.
- Participating in the robust Performance Management process linking directly to the school development plan.
- Monitoring and analysing a broad range of performance data, including external sources of data such as Ofsted Data Dashboard and RAISEOnline.

What will we do next?

Our principal objective is to ensure continued improvement in progress and attainment for all pupils.

We are committed to supporting the Headteacher and Senior Leaders, staff and pupils to achieve this and will continue to challenge them to provide the best possible education for all pupils. We will continue to listen to all stakeholders and value their views.

Martin Harris (Chair of Governors)

For further information go to our website
<https://oldparkprimaryschool.taw.org.uk>
Old Park Primary school Ofsted Report 2012
www.gov.uk/ofsted