



'Learn, Endeavour, Aspire, Respect, Nurture'

OXSPRING PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD **ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR 2015-2016**

THE GOVERNING BOARD CORE FUNCTIONS:

- Set the vision and strategic direction of school
- Hold the Head Teacher to account for its educational performance
- Ensure financial resources are well spent

The Board has established 3 committees:

- Finance and Premises
- Staffing, Standards and Curriculum
- Strategic Assessment and Monitoring

Provision has also been made for Committees to deal with Pupil Discipline; Staff Dismissal; Complaints; Barring; and the Head Teacher's Performance Management Review.

Committee terms of reference and constitution, structure, membership and attendance records can be found separately on the school website, as can the governors' Register of Interests.

The Board is made up of parent, LA, co-opted and staff governors in accordance with changes to the constitution set out in the School Governance Regulations 2012.

The Chair of the Board meets with the Head Teacher on a regular basis to offer both support and challenge. Link governors meet with the Head Teacher and/or lead person on a regular basis. Records of these and all visits by governors are held in school.

Setting the vision and strategic direction of the school

The aims of the school: 'Learn, Endeavour, Aspire, Respect, Nurture' were agreed by children, staff and governors in 2013. At the last Full Governing Board meeting in June 2016 the governors agreed to set up a small working party comprising representatives of all stakeholders i.e. governors, staff, pupils and parents to formulate a new vision for the school. This working party will have its first meeting in the Autumn Term.

The strategic direction of the school is set out in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) which is clearly linked to the School Evaluation Form (SEF) and focussed on the right priorities. The plan is clear about who is responsible and actions are identified. Both SEF and SIP are shared with the Board on a regular basis with the Staffing, Standards and Curriculum Committee in particular reviewing these for updates, challenge and agreement.

The priorities for this academic year were as follows:

1. To further improve leadership and management capacity and effectiveness at all levels. This included subject leaders; the new Assistant Headteacher; and governors.
2. To further improve the quality of teaching in order to raise achievement and progress in writing and maths.
3. To further develop the systems, procedures and strategies which impact on the personal development and welfare of all children.
4. To further raise attainment and improve levels of progress for all groups of children, including SEND, more able, and disadvantaged pupils.



Hold the Head Teacher to account for its educational performance

The Head Teacher presents a comprehensive governor's report to the Board at termly meetings and takes questions. The report is set out as agreed under the Ofsted framework headings of Leadership and Management; Behaviour and Safety; Quality of Teaching; and Achievement. The report includes current information regarding data where appropriate, and in particular information about the use and impact of the Pupil Premium and Sports Premium. This information can also be found on the school's website. It also includes information regarding bullying incidents.

The robust monitoring timetable and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), along with the Monitoring and Evaluation Milestones provided by the Head Teacher within the SIP give governors information to enable them to evaluate the rate of progress for continuous school improvement. In addition the Monitoring Calendar gives governors a very clear picture of how senior leaders intend reviewing their impact on the achievement and progress of pupils and feed back to governors.

The Strategic Assessment and Monitoring (SAM) group monitors and evaluates the impact of improvement strategies on outcomes for all pupils. It also receives information regarding the achievement and progress in particular, of pupils in receipt of pupil premium, more able pupils, and those identified as having special educational needs or disabilities. In addition to being given regular updated assessment information by the Headteacher, the group have undertaken a book scrutiny focussing on writing by children working above age related expectations; were given an excellent presentation by the maths subject leaders, Mrs Rolling and Mrs Wright; and received an 'Assessing without Levels' update by Mr West, Assistant Headteacher.



Ensure financial resources are well spent.

The Finance Committee meets termly, or more often if required, and reviews financial balances, uses financial information when making spending decisions, and ensures the school deploys its work force to maximum effect, for example employing Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs), Out Of School Staff, and the use of Sports Consultants and Coaches. Benchmarking is undertaken to compare Oxspring with 'like' schools and explore ways to implement more efficient systems and secure best practice.

The Finance Manager attends all Finance Meetings and presents current income and expenditure reports. In addition this year the Finance Officer has been working on a 3 year plan despite an ever reducing budget as well as increasing demands on the limited financial resources.

It is also part of the Finance Committee's remit to receive information and recommendations from the Head Teacher concerning teachers' performance reviews ensuring that there is a robust system in place regarding monitoring and that performance and pay are closely aligned when making decisions.

With careful budget planning governors were able to make provision for an extra class last year and secure the services of an inspirational teacher which has had a major impact not just on the Y4/5 class group but also on the provision and teaching of mathematics across the school.

Governors also were successful in appointing a class 2 teacher who is 'home grown' and demonstrates an absolute passion for teaching. Her appointment will further enhance teaching and learning across the school.

Governors Self-evaluation.

In addition to the above governors have in particular:

- Completed the LA 'Twenty key questions for a school governing board to ask itself' where we judged our governance as 'secure' and 'effective' whilst recognising that there are some areas for development.

- Updated the 'skills audit' of the governing board which assess the skills base and identifies gaps in order to address these through recruitment and/or training and development
- Ensured that Board meetings are becoming more focussed on priorities and strategic issues
- Supported the developing roles of the Senior Leadership Team including the Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher
- Developing a more focussed monitoring role including a very successful 'Governor Day' in school in July looking at 'writing across the curriculum' and 'marking and feedback'. In addition a closer scrutiny of pupil performance and progress has enabled quicker reactions to any areas of concern
- Raised the profile of the governing board within the school community
- Engaged in wider governance issues through Penistone Pyramid meetings; active engagement with Barnsley Governors Association; membership of National Governors Association; and use of Modern Governor and 'webanywhere'
- Ensured compliance with the legal requirements for the school's website
- Ensured statutory requirements regarding policies were met and up to date
- Had oversight of SATs administration
- Continued to discuss and explore all options regarding the future
- Given appropriate and strong support to allow a small rural primary school to move forward through a period of uncertainty and against a very bleak national picture.

Individual Roles and Responsibilities

Pam Heggie **Chair of Governors**
Chair of Staffing, Standards and Curriculum
Chair of Strategic Assessment and Monitoring

Visseh Pejhan-Sykes **Vice Chair of Governors**
Safeguarding

Alan Laslett **Chair of Finance and Premises**
Pupil Premium/Data

Paula Ducker **Health and Safety**

Michelle Jowett **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

Helen Sparks **Literacy; Website**

Colin Gratton-Rayson **Maths**

