



Coniston Primary School
"working together we can succeed"

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (2014/15)

CONISTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

'WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN SUCCEED'

The Governing Body's roles and responsibilities fall into three key areas:

- strategic direction: setting aims for the school; agreeing policies, plans and targets for improvement to match those aims; monitoring and evaluating the impact of policies
- critical friend: asking relevant but probing questions in a supportive, honest and trusting manner
- accountability: holding the headteacher and staff to account for the performance of the school; to the parents and others for the work of the Governing Body in deciding the strategic direction of the school; setting the terms of reference for those individuals, committees and working parties to which the Governing Body delegates tasks.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Coniston Primary School is made up of two staff governors (including the headteacher), 3 elected parent governors, 1 Local Authority governor and 5 co-opted governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Body, have the skills required to contribute to effective governance and to the success of the school. We currently have two vacancies. If you are interested in becoming a governor please contact the school office for further information.

The full Governing Body met 5 times during the year and the two committees (Curriculum & Staffing and Finance & Resources) each met 4 times during the year. Individual governors sit on at least one committee. In addition we have a Pay & Performance Committee which met once.

We have a clerk who takes the minutes at all meetings. She also advises the Governing Body on procedural matters and ensures that we meet our statutory obligations.

The work we have done

As always the Governing Body has had a busy year focusing upon 'getting to good'. As expected we had an OfSTED inspection in March and are delighted that OfSTED confirmed

that we are a GOOD school. The headteacher and staff are to be congratulated on this outcome as they have worked tirelessly to achieve this outcome.

At several full Governing Body meetings we have had 30-minute presentations on new developments/initiatives to enable governors to keep-up-to-date. Topics during the year focussed upon pupil premium funding, staff appraisal, British Values, Special Educational Needs and Disability and (following the OfSTED inspection) areas for further school improvement. At every curriculum committee meeting we have received written reports on progress and developments within literacy, numeracy and early years. The curriculum leaders have also attended these meetings which has given Governors an opportunity to seek clarification and to ask questions. Governors have also taken advantage of training courses provided by the Local Authority and other accredited bodies. Courses attended included safeguarding, safer recruitment, RAISEonline and the new computing curriculum.

During the year, governors visited the school on a number of occasions in their monitoring capacity. Each governor has a 'watching brief' and they met with the member of staff responsible for the area 2 or 3 times during the year. In addition, governors had the opportunity to join a 'learning walk' with the headteacher and deputy headteacher (where they toured the school looking for evidence for a particular focus) and to attend a pupil conferencing session led by the headteacher (pupils were asked questions on a range of subjects including their progress, how teachers support them, behaviour and safety). We also held a governor-led pupil conferencing session during the summer term. Governors also attended other school functions such as concerts and sports day.

Future Plans for the Governing Body

The Governing Body believes that parental/carer support and partnership forms the bedrock of sustained academic achievement for all children. To this end we will be working with the headteacher and staff to ensure that at Coniston we have an effective parent/carer partnership. This will include a questionnaire from the Governing Body to all parents/carers which will help us gather information about how well the school is doing through your 'eyes'.

We believe that the school should be a pleasant environment in which pupils and staff can work. With this in mind, during the coming academic year, we are hoping to improve the outside of the school buildings by making repairs to windows and to redecorate some areas outside the main entrance. We are also hoping to action some of the suggestions made by the school council by putting more seating in the outside areas, putting a roof on the gazebo, adding more 'humps', making repairs to the tunnel and re-turfing where necessary. Longer term we need to plan for the refurbishment of the early years and KS1 classrooms. All this, of course, depends upon the level of funding that we are able to commit to these projects.

How you can contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers...please contact the Chair, Mike Lloyd, via the school office.

Other information about the Governing Body can be found on the governor notice board (situated in the school entrance lobby) and on the school website.

31 August 2015