

WHAT DO THE SCHOOL GOVERNORS DO?

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (2016/17)

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

To carry out the above roles and responsibilities the Governing Body has defined and agreed a Code of Conduct which sets out the commitment and behaviours expected of our governors. All governors sign up to this Code on becoming a governor at Coniston.

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 a parent/carer vacancy so 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

At several full Governing Body meetings, we have had presentations on new developments/initiatives to enable governors to keep-up-to-date. Topics during the year focussed upon Academy Trusts, Vision and Aims for a new Strategic Plan, Interventions and Pupil Recruitment Strategies.

At every curriculum committee meeting we have received written reports on progress and developments within literacy and numeracy. We also receive written reports from other curriculum leaders on a rotational basis 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 Chairs and Clerk Networks, Chairs' Briefing, Induction for New Governors, SEN Conference, Asbestos Awareness, Y2 Statutory Assessment Briefing, Age-Related Expectations in Writing, School Finances and HCSS Budgeting.

During the year, governors visited the school 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 'focussed learning walk' with the headteacher and deputy headteacher. Governors also attended other school functions such as concerts and sports day.

Over the past year we consider that partnership with parents and carers have improved and we are confident that the welcome families receive, the communication about children's learning and development alongside the support we offer are leading to better outcomes for all. In January, we received the Leading Parent Partnership award, commending us on our 'excellent practice', they also noted the following:

- the school clearly seeks and acts upon the views of parents. It is a listening school and has won the trust and confidence of parents. Parent partnership is an integral part of the school's philosophy and ethos and plays a key/role in school improvement
- the school's commitment to hold 3 joint parent/pupil joint learning activities per year group, per year, is outstanding practice and has helped to develop relationships of mutual trust and understanding.

Whilst we may have achieved the award we recognise the importance of maintaining our own high standards in the coming year. To this end we plan to retain the award following reassessment in 2020.

The work we are going to do

During 2017/2018 we will focus on improving the quality of teaching and learning through:

- provision of continued professional development to compliment the needs of the staff and the school. This will include Lego Therapy, Inference training, Learn Teach Lead RE Annual Conference, Y2 and Y6 writing moderation and work with Hazel Large (Mathematics Consultant). We will also be looking to purchase PUMA (a Mathematics Assessment Programme)
- ensuring adequate resources are available to support teaching and learning. This will include a programme of investment for interactive panels/projectors within the classrooms. Whilst continuing to invest in reading books for the library and bus. We will also continue to research and apply for grants to support our Forest Schools work.

- improvements to the school environment. Following major building work, funded by the local authority, during summer 2017, we will look to decorate areas within the school. This will include painting the entrance lobby and KS1 classrooms, replacing blinds and curtains in the hall/classrooms and planning investment to cover the replacement of stage lighting and sound equipment for assemblies and performances
- increasing the involvement of parents in supporting learning, particularly with families where English is not the first language
- engaging parents in policy development.

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 2017