

WHAT DO THE SCHOOL GOVERNORS DO?

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (2017/18)

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 are pleased to report that we have a full Governing Body.

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.

More information about the Governors and the work that we do can be found on the school website.

The work we have done

This year has been a very busy and exciting year for the Coniston Community. We opened two-days late in September following a major refurbishment of the electrics. This had meant all furniture/equipment/resources had been removed from the site. We are very grateful to the staff for all the hard work they put in at the beginning of the school year to get the school back to normal.

In December we said 'goodbye' to our former headteacher, Nigel Isaac. Although the Governors held interviews in September for the headship, we decided not to appoint and re-advertised the post. Miss Sue Lock became interim headteacher in January. In March, Miss Lock was appointed as permanent headteacher from a very strong field of applicants. Miss Lock was the unanimous choice of the interviewing panel following a rigorous two-day interviewing process.

Also in early March we were inspected by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors. We were delighted that he confirmed that we remain a **GOOD SCHOOL**. Further details of this one-day inspection can be found on the school website.

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 Transition, Standards & Target Setting, OFSTED Inspections, Assessment Arrangement and Attendance.

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, LA Annual Governor Conference, Safeguarding in Schools, Health & Safety and Performance Management.

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.

We have also ensured that staff continue to develop their skills and expertise through further professional development. This has included Child Protection & Prevent training for all staff, Head Teacher Induction, Positive Restraint, emergency first aid at work, Year of Maths - Maths Leader & KS1 Teacher, Middle Leaders – Improving Schools – Literacy Leader, Action 3:30 Sports Activities Training, Introduction to Swimming for teaching assistants.

The work we are going to do

During 2018/2019 we will focus on improving the quality of teaching and learning through:

- provision of professional development to compliment the needs of staff and the school. This will include: Leading with Impact training for middle / subject leaders, SDP Planning Effectively training for senior leaders, working with an independent

English consultant to develop assessment and moderation in writing, Assessment for learning training, developing reasoning and problem solving in Maths and improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

- ensuring adequate resources are available to support teaching and learning. This will include annual investment in PIRA and PUMA (assessment processes), Power of Reading and Power of Pictures, with further investment for Maths resources. We are looking to continue our procurement of reading resources for the classrooms and playground bus. Our music provisions will continue including recorder and ukulele class lessons whilst offering small group guitar and keyboard lessons; we will also develop our links with the infant song project
- the development of curriculum enrichment sessions
- increased sports funding will enable us to develop and broaden the range of sports clubs we offer whilst providing a comprehensive PE package including: monitoring and evaluation of participation, resource management, professional development in competitive sport, sports club expansion and links, the development of playground leaders and accreditation of the Silver Games Mark
- increasing the involvement of parents to support learning, particularly Maths Workshops, across all year groups
- improving attendance through a new approach to positive reinforcement and rewards
- improvements to the school environment which will include setting up new service contracts for site services and a commitment to energy efficiency through LED lighting to provide a conducive learning environment and budget savings.

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 2018