

WHAT DO THE SCHOOL GOVERNORS DO?

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (2018/19)

CONISTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

'WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN SUCCEED'

Governors have an enormously important role to play in running our school and helping to provide the best possible education for our children. The Governing Body works with the headteacher to provide a vision and a strategic framework. It also ensures that the headteacher performs her responsibilities for the educational performance of the school; and ensures the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

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 on the Governing Body following the resignation of Mr James Andrews, who had served on the Governing Body for over 7 years. If you are interested in becoming a Governor please do contact our Business Manager, Mrs Cath Stabb via the school office, who will give you details of what is involved.**

The Full Governing Body met 6 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

Unfortunately, since last November our headteacher, Miss Susan Lock, has been on long-term sick leave and has now made the decision to leave due to ill health. In December we also said 'goodbye' to Mrs Young, our deputy headteacher. However, we have been very fortunate in appointing Mr Alan Walters as our interim headteacher and Mr Sam Glover as our deputy. We also appointed Mr Curtis Payne as our English Lead. These three staff, together with Cath Stabb our Business Manager, are now the Senior Leadership Team.

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 gain further insight into the work of the school. Governors have also taken advantage of training courses provided by the Local Authority and other accredited bodies. Courses attended included Chairs and Clerks Networks, Chairs' Briefing, Staff Performance Management & Pay, Budget Briefing, ELS Governor Briefing, Induction for New Governors and the LA Annual Governor Conference,

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 further Child Protection & Prevent training for new staff, Interagency, advanced child protection and safer recruitment training for acting deputy head teacher, further Positive Restraint training for more staff, safer recruitment refresher training for School Business Manager, renewing paediatric first aid certificates for first aiders, Literacy courses for new Literacy Leader, Phonics training for staff and THRIVE training.

Further work and developments during 2018/2019 have been:

- acting deputy headteacher became an SLE for Maths
- we now have Facebook, and improved the way of sharing the success and achievements of our pupils
- we took part in more sporting activities – including plate winners at the Year 5/6 tag rugby tournament, over 40 children took part in a cross-county event with 1 child winning their race and two groups were placed in their category. We also took part in the Festival of Youth Sport with the boys placing 2nd and girls placing 3rd in the athletics.
- further investment in our classroom reading corners, purchasing more books and soft furnishings

The work we are going to do

During 2019/2020 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: development of our middle-leaders to support their additional responsibilities linked to the School Improvement Plan and whole school areas of focus
- ensuring adequate resources are available to support teaching and learning. This will include annual investment in assessment for learning processes and power of reading. We are looking to continue our procurement of reading resources whilst updating/revising our reading levels for the reading scheme. Our music provision will continue including recorders whilst offering small group guitar and keyboard lessons
- develop our whole-school sports provision by working with additional sports coaching providers. Enabling us to further our participation/achievement in sporting events
- enhancing our safeguarding and child protection procedures by using CPOMS
- raising the profile of mental wellbeing for all pupils and staff, whilst working towards the Mental Wellbeing Award
- develop the Pastoral Support Role within our school to offer further parental engagement, communication and support through a variety of workshops and meetings. Enhancing our pastoral care for pupils through individual and group work. In addition to more communication with outside agencies to support this role
- working towards the Health in Schools Bronze Award
- participation in the Bristol University Project, 'Children's University Passports'
- improving our school grounds to support whole-school participation in forest school (Reception to year 6).
- developing our Early Years provision by expanding the classroom size, outdoor space and facilities for Reception, year 1 and year 2 classes, through consultation with the Head of Early Years at South Gloucestershire Council and our own research/ investigation of outstanding early years provision across other local authorities.

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 2019