

# CLINTON SCHOOL

## GOVERNORS ANNUAL REVIEW 2016-2017

### Summary

This past year has seen many developments affecting Clinton Primary School. Although continuing uncertainty over the scale and distribution of government funding and the official approach to SATs affects the running of the school, the governing board's main duties are still to develop the school's strategic direction, hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and make sure the school's finances are in good order and money is well spent.

We were delighted therefore that the SATS results in 2017 were excellent. Our fundamental purpose is to help the children achieve their potential and it was wonderful to see pupils continue to perform brilliantly and well above the national average across the key subjects. The effort this requires from both children and staff is something we recognise and applaud.

Financially, we believe we remain a well-run school despite the funding environment we face. Our budgets are carefully monitored to ensure we are spending wisely and for the benefit of all pupils. We have been helped this year by taking over the After School Club. Along with our Before School Club we can now offer parents support in the care of their children outside school times where they need it. Both clubs are run as integral parts of the school administration, keeping wholly in-house this important service.

Each year we also look at how the school can improve. Three priority areas of school development were monitored over the last school year: to improve teaching and in turn the progress children make, through personalising the 'feedback, professional development and monitoring' process for each individual teacher and TA; to develop transferable skills in History, Geography, Science and ICT within a school-wide theme of 'Wonder, Exploration and Discovery'; and to improve pupil learning with particular focus on maths and reading.

The rest of this report gives a little more detail about what the governors have done and how we've undertaken our duties last academic year.

## **The Governing Board as a whole**

Once again membership of the Governing Board has changed this year. We have 5 parent governors, 6 co-opted governors, one vacancy for a Local Authority nominated governor, one staff governor and the Head Teacher (you can see the whole list at the end of the review).

Andrew Williams remained as Chair and Gail Saxon as vice-chair for 2017-2018. Richard Sewell left the board and Paul Tarry took over his role as chair of the Quality and Standards committee (see below). We also said goodbye to Joanna Illingworth, who was our Local Authority appointed governor and who has given years of service to the school. We thank both Joanna and Richard for all their efforts and time.

The resignations left us with one vacancy for a parent governor and the process for recruiting a new person to take on this role began in the autumn term. After a parent election we were delighted to confirm the appointment of Natalie King to the role. We are very grateful for all candidates who put themselves forward.

The Local Authority governor post is vacant but we hope to replace Joanna in due course.

The Board continues to be responsible for addressing the Governors' statutory duties and undertake a supportive and critical review of the school's development. We do this in two key areas: Quality and Standards (QS) and Resource Management (RM). There is a committee for each, which meets every term, and which report to the full board which also meets at least every term.

The work carried out by the Board and these committees generally and over the past school year is explained below:

## **Full Governing Board**

The full governing board concentrates on strategic matters particularly with regard to school improvement. Governors are not involved in the operational aspects of the school, which are the responsibility of the Head Teacher and his staff. But with them we agree a vision for the kind of school we want to see. The Head Teacher then has the role of ensuring the vision is delivered (you can see the [Vision](#) on the School's website).

Our **5 year strategy** continues to direct our decisions and remains our overall vision. Five strategic aims were identified and are our guide for all that we do:

- enhancing pupil development and learning;

- expanding provision for the children;
- enhancing communication between all of us (parents, staff, children and governors);
- accessing more funding where possible;
- and ensuring expertise on the governing board and staff remains appropriate and of the highest quality.

At the beginning of each school year, the Board approves school improvement priorities that the Head Teacher and his senior leaders believe will move the school forward over the following twelve months. Our job then is to monitor how this develops as well as how the school is doing in all areas. We appoint governors to visit the school to monitor how work is progressing. In 2016-2017 we focused on (a) improving teaching, (b) deepening the teaching of history, science and IT, and (c) improving progress in writing.

For 2017-2018 our three priorities are to develop:

(a) children's 'personal' skills so that they become more positive, self-aware, confident, resilient, and more successfully collaborative;

(b) the quality of children's interactions during lessons so that they are engaged, cooperative and thinking more deeply about what they are learning across the curriculum; and

(c) our teaching of maths across the school, to ensure children have the mental maths tools (including counting fluency and calculation facts), concrete understanding of number and plenty of varied experience of problem solving, where they are collaborating, puzzling, and reasoning.

We have already begun monitoring progress in these three areas.

We also work with the school to put in place policies on a large range of matters that need to be followed and implemented. You can see those we are obliged to make public on the school [website](#).

As individual governors, we also make regular visits into school to see for ourselves how particular issues are being addressed. The Board assesses the reports of these visits and those of the two committees and considers if any steps are necessary to help progress the priorities and the vision aims further.

Andrew Williams acted as chair throughout 2016-2017 and continues in this role for the coming year. Gail Saxon was appointed as vice-chair in 2016-2017 and also continues in that role.

## Quality and Standards

### Overview

The governing body's Quality and Standards committee consists of seven governors including Sam Pater. The Chair is now **Paul Tarry** and the committee discusses and monitors all aspects of the school's work around pupil attainment and progress, which means how well children do in tests at the end of key stages and how much improvement they make between key stages. Their role is to look at this for the pupil body as a whole, but also for groups of pupils, such as boys and girls, pupils with a special educational needs, etc. They use national comparison data to assess how well our pupils are doing, compared with similar pupils nationally.

Q&S governors meet every term to discuss issues such as how much progress children are making in their learning throughout the year, how the needs of children who need a little extra support in their learning are being met, and how the school is making good use of its [pupil premium](#) funding. (Pupil premium is a government initiative to provide additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers.) They don't look at the data for individual children; we use the school's own tracking processes to look at progress for each class as a whole, and for some groups of pupils within a class. They also check how the [sports premium](#) is being spent and what initiatives are being introduced. (The PE and sport premium is another government scheme to help primary schools improve the quality of the PE and sport activities they offer their pupils.)

Within the committee there is a link governor for special educational needs (SEN) (**Des Carey**) and one for safeguarding (**Melissa Reddy**). The role of these link governors is to meet every term with the corresponding member of school staff and discuss progress in the action plans for each of these areas. In this way we have members of the governing body who become more knowledgeable about each area and are well placed to undertake their role as 'critical friend.'

Other members of the committee regularly visit the school to look at how specific learning areas are being dealt with. So, matters such as Relationships and Sex Education, curriculum development, safeguarding, as well as monitoring achievements in the core subjects of maths, reading and writing are kept under review.

### Some specific work this Year

- The SATS results last year (2016-17) were extremely good. We shared this on the school website to show how well the children performed
- We monitor achievement in relation to the three school improvement priorities
- We continued to monitor progress of all years embedding the new curriculum and methods of assessment.

- We have continued working with the Warwickshire local authority with its Relationships and Sex Education programme for the whole school
- We conducted our annual parent questionnaire and reported on the results

## **Resource Management**

### **Overview**

The Resources Committee meets termly to discuss financial, health and safety, staffing and premise matters facing the school. The committee comprises of six governors (including Sam Pater) and was chaired by **Rosalind Currie**.

In addition to the termly meetings, governors participate in detailed budget reviews and provide challenge as to where the school spends its money, as well as the annual budget setting with the local authority. We are pleased to inform you that the budget is relatively healthy and that the school has a strong financial foundation, though the projections for future years show that we may have even more challenging times ahead.

The committee is specifically obliged to review the expenditure of the pupil premium and sports premium. This is to check that the government funds are best utilised in line with regulations. It also considers all the Health and Safety arrangements around school: **James Smith** is now our link governor in this area.

### **Some specific work this year:**

- We worked with the school to implement our new SEND provision
- We oversaw the introduction of the new school After School Club – this required considerable preparation and our thanks go to all staff who assisted in making this a reality – we are now proud to have before and after school care facilities for those who need it.
- We reviewed Health and Safety provision and responded to particular issues as they arose
- We ensured our finances were managed in a way that enables us to meet the ‘Schools Financial Value Standard’.
- We helped the school come to decisions about staffing changes, including pay and deployment.

### **Contact**

If you are interested in learning more about this report, the work of the Governors and the School’s governance, or even becoming a governor yourself, then please contact the Chair of Governors, Andrew Williams, on [A.T.Williams@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:A.T.Williams@warwick.ac.uk)

## The Governing Board

Parent Governors	Sub Committee	School link
<p style="text-align: center;">Natalie King</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Resource Management</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Des Carey</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Quality &amp; Standards</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SEN</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Rosalind Currie</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Resource Management</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chair RM SIDP 1: Personal development</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Debbie Locke</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Quality &amp; Standards/Pay Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Communications SIDP 1: Personal development</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Paul Tarry</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Quality and Standards</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chair QS Pupil Premium SIDP 3: maths</p>

<p>Gail Saxon</p> 	<p>Quality and Standards</p>	<p><b>Vice-Chair</b> Governing Board</p> <p>SIDP 2: Kagan Structures</p>
<p><b>Co-opted governors</b></p>	<p><b>Sub Committee</b></p>	<p><b>School Link</b></p>
<p>Elaine Mitchell</p> 	<p>Resource Management/Pay Committee</p>	
<p>Gulson Pennison</p> 	<p>Resource Management</p>	<p>Finance and Budget</p> <p>SIDP 3: Maths</p>
<p>Andrew Williams</p> 	<p>Resource Management</p>	<p><b>Chair</b> Governing Board</p> <p>Governor Training</p> <p>Looked After Children</p> <p>After School Club</p>

<p>James Smith</p> 	<p>Resource Management/ Pay Committee</p>	<p>Health and Safety E-safety SIDP 2:Kagan structures</p>
<p>Melissa Reddy</p> 	<p>Resource Management</p>	<p>Safeguarding</p>
<p><b>LA Governor</b></p>	<p><b>Sub Committee</b></p>	
<p><u>Vacancy</u></p>		
<p><b>Staff Governors</b></p>	<p><b>Sub Committee</b></p>	
<p>Gary Viner(Deputy Head)</p> 	<p>Quality &amp; Standards</p>	
<p><b>Headteacher Governor</b></p>	<p><b>Sub Committee</b></p>	
<p>Sam Pater</p> 	<p>Quality &amp; Standards/Resource Management</p>	

