

Newton Solney Infant School

Governors Annual Statement 2017/2018

The roles of the Governing Body of Newton Solney Infant School are:

1. To ensure a clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school.
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational achievement of the pupils at the school
3. To oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Governing body is made up of 11 Governors:

Staff Governonrs

Mrs Heidi Elks (Headteacher)
Mrs Davinia Gamble

Parent Governors

Mrs Karen Wood
Mrs Helen Stewart

Foundation Governors

Mrs Catherine Eastwood
Rev'd Martin Flowerdew (Ex Officio)
Mrs Chris Freestone (Vice Chair)
Mr Elwyn Rees-Jones (Chair)
Mrs Cathy Russell
Mrs Jane Thompson
Mrs Mary Norman

The full Governing Body meets twice each term. There are five subcommittees which meet separately to consider particular aspects of the Schools organisation and performance. They are:

Resources – to set the staffing and the school budget

Mrs Catherine Eastwood
Mrs Heidi Elks
Mrs Christine Freestone
Mr Elwyn Rees-Jones
Mrs Jane Thompson
Mrs Cathy Russell

Teaching and Learning – to look at the effectiveness of teaching and the performance of the pupils.

Mrs Helen Stewart
Mrs Davinia Gamble
Rev'd Martin Flowerdew
Mrs Karen Wood
Mrs Mary Norman

Performance Management – to set and monitor the headteachers objectives.

Mrs Jane Thompson

Mr Elwyn Rees-Jones

Health and Safety – to ensure that the risks are well managed in school.

Mrs Christine Freestone

Mrs Heidi Elks

SEN and Safeguarding – to oversee the arrangements for pupils with special needs and to ensure the pupils are safe in school

Mrs Heidi Elks

Mrs Jane Thompson

What do we as Governors do

We have a strategic role within the School. We are not involved in the day to day management of the school this is the responsibility of the Headteacher and her staff. We are expected to play the part of a 'critical friend'. This means striking the right balance between challenge and support. In this role we question and suggest refinements to the proposals and policies of the School. We are involved in appointing staff and dealing with any matters which could involve appeals and we are responsible for the School Budget. We keep abreast of current developments in education through the Derbyshire County Council governor training briefings. We have also completed a skills audit within the Governing Body and ensured that Governors are allocated to appropriate committees.

Work done by the Governors in 2017/2018

Safeguarding

This is one of the main priorities of Governors and as such appears as an agenda item on every meeting of the full governing body. We have reviewed the policies and have a specified governor who has safeguarding responsibilities. Confidentiality is very important to us particularly when considering safeguarding issues.

Parent Questionnaire

We were very grateful to all the parents who completed the questionnaire. We reviewed the questionnaire and the overwhelmingly positive feedback was pleasing to see and a great encouragement to both staff and governors. It is very helpful to have parents feedback and as a result the pupil targets are to be made more explicit in the parent consultations.

Monitor Attendance

Attendance at school has been identified by the government as one of the main factors affecting pupil performance. We also share that concern and therefore ask the headteacher to report on attendance at every meeting of the full governing body. We are pleased with the level of attendance and want to thank parents for not taking their children out of school for holidays. We would very much want this to

continue in the future. The local authority will fine any parents not meeting this requirement.

Marketing Committee

As a small school changes in numbers have a big impact on our budget which is dependent on the number of pupils the school has on roll. Our numbers do fluctuate and this therefore means we need to very carefully monitor our budget. We as governors are proud of the hard work of the staff and the willingness of the pupils to participate actively in their learning. Therefore we want to try and maximise the number of pupils at the school. To try and do this we have set up a marketing committee to try and reach out to the surrounding area to try and bring more pupils to the school. We would be very grateful of any suggestions or support which parents could offer to this work.

Volunteering in School

A number of the governors volunteer in the school. They hear pupils read and also help out with forest school. Some governors are also involved with community collective worship each month.

We have been involved in the setting of the school improvement plan which focuses on the further development of good teaching in the school, increasing the level of challenge for the more able in lessons. This year the focus has been on English.

Resources Committee

Has set the school budget and monitored projected pupil numbers.

Teaching and Learning Committee

In this committee we have been looking at pupils work, the implementation and effectiveness of the marking policy and the use of resources in lessons. It has been good to see how well the pupils are responding to the new marking policy. This is enabling them to see what they need to do to improve and encourages them to be active in their learning. The committee is also considering how it can best monitor the school improvement plan.

All committees have read and approved a wide range of school policies.

How to contact us

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. If you wish to contact us then please see Mrs Rayson in the Office or use the following email address.

governors@newtonsolney.derbyshire.sch.uk

