

Newton Solney Infant School

Governors Annual Statement 2018/2019

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 Governors

Mrs Heidi Elks (Headteacher)
Mrs Davinia Gamble

Parent Governors

Mrs Kerry Chambers
Mrs Helen Stewart
Mrs Karen Wood

Foundation Governors

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

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 (Chair)
Mrs Heidi Elks
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 Kerry Chambers
Rev'd Martin Flowerdew
Mrs Davinia Gamble
Mrs Mary Norman
Mrs Helen Stewart
Mrs Karen Wood

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 Catherine Eastwood
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 2018/2019

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 have been made more explicit in the parent consultations. Governors have also attended some of the Teacher Parent consultation meetings to discuss with parents whether they have understood the targets and were they happy with the school. The response was very positive.

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.

School Vision

We have begun the process of updating the school vision and aims statement. This has been extensively discussed and a draft statement has been issued. This has been circulated to all parents for their consideration and feedback. The children in the school have also been asked for their views. The vision and aims will then be used to inform all the policy making in the school and it will also be incorporated into the next school and governor development plan.

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. Following discussions with parents we are going to be looking at the possibility of setting up a school Facebook page. Parents had commented that this was probably the best way of bringing the school to the attention of parents outside of the catchment.

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

The resources committee have approved the budget for the current year and continues to monitor spend against it. We meet regularly to challenge the staff to ensure best value is achieved and are very pleased that we have been able to continue to support 3 classes even as numbers have fluctuated. The school continues to be in a strong position financially with a stable staff, which enables them to provide the best possible education for the children. During the year various school improvements have also been approved including the forest school area on the school field, new blinds and decoration and ongoing maintenance. There are further projects planned for the medium term.

The resources committee has also reviewed and approved all relevant policies.

Teaching and Learning Committee

The 'Teaching and Learning Committee' has worked hard this year to focus on the School Improvement Plan. We have worked closely with the staff and have been into school to rigorously check the action points are being addressed and are on target. We have also discussed transition, online learning journals, school reports, parental questionnaires and reviewed a variety of policies.

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 use the following email address.

governors@newtonsolney.derbyshire.sch.uk