

Governors Annual Statement 2017

The focus of the Governing Body, in this 1st year for the new Head Teacher has been to ensure that all pupils progress is sustainable and well-managed, in a stimulating, nurturing, Christian and safe environment. The governing body fully appreciates that for this to happen, and for progress to be sustainable, the pupils must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and highly motivated staff who all work together to ensure that all children achieve the best they can, within an environment that fully supports the ethos of 'learning to make a difference'.

Governors appreciate too the requirements for the governing body to provide the assurance to children's parents and carers that the leadership and management of the school and how it affects safety, learning, progress and enjoyment is at the highest standard.

To achieve these objectives governors continually evaluate the performance of the Children and the Staff through meetings, learning walks and by spending time within the school throughout the year. To support this they publish relevant information to all appropriate parties.

Governors Visits – The governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the Raising Achievement plan and any specific issues raised during the academic year. Guidance in terms of the roles and responsibilities of statutory link governors are provided to relevant governors and regular training is available in order to provide the governing body with the skills it needs.

Data Analysis – Data is made available to governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by questions and answer sessions with the head teacher and members of the senior leadership team. This data enables the governors to benchmark their data against similar schools within the Local Authority and schools nationally to ensure that the governing body and the teaching staff strive to achieve the highest standards in all they do, and that expectations are kept high.

Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all groups including vulnerable groups and those in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG).

Policies – Governors review all relevant policies on a regular basis to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list and the Local Authority recommended list.

Financial Management – The governor's role in this area is to ensure that the schools budget is managed effectively and any improvements are effective and well targeted. Governor expertise – the governors bring a wide variety of expertise to the school and this helps to ensure the school is moving forward.

Safer Recruitment – The head teacher and a number of staff are trained in "Safer Recruitment". Governors are involved in the recruitment and selection of all teaching staff and use the appointment process to ensure that any new staff are of the highest quality and that they bring to the school new skills, but most importantly they share the ethos and aims of NJS.

Governor Meeting Attendance – Governor attendance has been of a good level, with any absences having been fully explained and accepted and approved by the governing body. The numbers of governors remains a challenge and recruitment of new governors continues. However, there is a core of committed governors who fully support the concept of being the schools 'critical friend'.

Review -The governing body, the head teacher and all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school. This was supported in the 2017 OFSTED inspection who under their new framework for inspection, which 'upped the bar', graded the NJS with an overall grade GOOD. Further to this our SIAMS inspection less than 4 weeks of OFSTED. Once again, as a result of the staffs work and the changes the Head

Teacher had started in enhancing the Spiritual wellbeing of the pupils, the inspection assessed the School as GOOD with many outstanding features.

The Governing Body of Newport CofE Junior School is organised as follows:

There are three main committees –

- Finance Committee.
- DATA Committee.
- Health & Safety and Behaviours Committee.

Most decisions are devolved to these committees and the head teacher, who sits on all three. The committees usually convene at least twice a term with extra meetings if required.

Special Interest Governors – These cover different areas and include Special Education Needs, Health and Safety, Pupil Premium, Safeguarding and Children in Care

In order to fulfil their strategic role and address the development points from the Raising Achievement Plan, Governors have:

- Provided challenge and support to the Head teacher and other Senior Leaders.
- Visited school to monitor the performance of pupils, for example by learning walks to look at specific aspects of the children's work including their books.
- Talked to pupils about their work and their targets and observed them in the classroom.
- Monitored and evaluated all available data, including Government Data Dashboard, Raise Online and internal reports from teachers to ensure that action is being taken on targets set.
- Sought the views of parents and pupils via questionnaires, evaluated the responses and ensured that appropriate follow-up actions are taken.
- Ensured robust appraisal systems for teachers and addressed any under-performance.

In order to fulfil their statutory duties Governors have:

- Ensured that the school website is up-to-date and complies with regulations.
- Attend regular meetings with clear agendas to discuss, review and approve key compliance requirements, e.g. Child Protection Policy, and that Safeguarding responsibilities are met.

Achievements for 2016 – 2017 have been summarised as follows:

- Governors worked to achieve the appointment of a Substantive Head teacher.
- Chair of Governors supported the appointment of 2 new full time teachers for Autumn term 2017.
- Provisional 2017 Key Stage 2 SAT results show that 75% of children achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to 63% in 2016.

- Children achieved above National and Local averages in all subjects at the end of Key Stage 2 and were above the floor standard.
- The school achieved 'Quality Lead Status' in the Achievement for All programme and will be used as an example of best practise.
- The school achieved a 'Good' OFSTED in a Section 8 inspection.
- The school achieved Good in a SIAMS inspection with Outstanding Leadership and Management.
- The Music Hub have awarded the school a Bronze level of recognition.
- There have been a wide range of Sporting successes across the school. Children have represented school in a range of events. We achieved Gold School Games Mark.
- All children in all year groups had the opportunity to participate in a residential visit.
- The School choir has performed at a range of local and National events.
- There continues to be very positive relations with parents and carers who continue to support the school. Parental attendance at events continues to be high.
- Newport CE Junior School continues to engage with the community through events such as Newport in Bloom, Newport Carnival, Civic Sunday and Newport Show. The school won Newport Carnival this year with its float entry.
- Attendance was closely monitored and found to be in line with or above National.

Lastly on behalf of the Governing Body I would like to thank all the Teaching Staff for their continued dedication to the pupils of Newport Junior School and congratulate them all on what has been a year they can be proud of.

Lawrie Boardman

Chair of Governors