

Millbrook Primary School and Nursery

Annual report on the activities of the governing body 2015/16.

The main responsibilities and drive for Governors at Millbrook Primary school has been to continue the positive progression of the school throughout the year. The governing body works with the head teacher to achieve the following strategic goals:

- set the overall vision and direction of the school
- oversee the budget
- help recruit staff
- monitor the performance of the school, for example in examinations and key stage tests
- advise on school policies and procedures

Governors are therefore relentless in their focus to drive forward school improvement in partnership with the Senior Leadership Team. The governors have therefore performed the following tasks and observations throughout the year:

Autumn 2015

Governors reviewed and updated safeguarding, anti-bullying and welfare policies in line with government requirements. Governors continually monitor and review school policies to ensure that they are compliant with the most up to date legislation and/or guidance available.

Children's workbooks were reviewed alongside senior leaders to check that good progress is being made. Governor 'book-looks' confirm that pupils are coming into school ready to learn, with high expectations and are capable of delivering consistently high quality work.

Governors scrutiny of latest available data and detailed reports from Senior Leaders regarding pupil progress, aims and expectations enable them to be fully aware of the strengths and areas for development. Governors listened to leaders' plans for improvement and checked the impact of these plans by looking at available data as well as examples of pupils' work

Governors have established a committee to carry out the Head teacher's Performance Management appraisal and will ensure that targets set for the forthcoming year are tightly aligned to the School Development Plan.

Spring 2016

Governors have conducted visits to the school to monitor internal data, books and accompany senior leaders on learning walks. In particular this term, governors have seen evidence of various strategies being used in the classroom to support learning in phonics. Governors observed pupils engaged in their learning consistently across the school. Governors have monitored planning with subject leaders for consistency. Focussed planning continues to secure improved teaching and learning.

Governors meet regularly as a committee as part of the Strategic Governors Group to deal with financial matters. They have recently completed the financial benchmarking exercise and conclude that the school compares favourably and offers good value for money. The school uses PPG Funding in a range of ways to close the gap between vulnerable groups and their peers including initiatives to encourage independent learning and enhancing pupil engagement. Sports funding is used to provide additional sporting opportunities and coaching for all children both in school and as part of the wider cluster. More children are now able to participate in sporting activities as a result. Governors have been able to observe some of these activities on visits to the school.

Governors have reviewed the scheme of financial delegation and are satisfied that the current limits are adequate at the present time.

Governors have reviewed and approved a number of policies and procedures. The policies are fit for purpose and reflect the latest statutory regulations and LA guidance.

Summer 2016

Governors reviewed the pupil outcomes for the year in July and have worked with the senior leadership team to set strategic priorities for the 2016 / 17 school year. These will be written up into the school improvement plan that governors can monitor progress against and hold senior staff to account for progress made.

Governors continue to monitor progress towards achievement of the performance management targets for the Head teacher and ensure that these remain tightly aligned to the School Development Plan. There is evidence to support a huge shift in culture and ethos across the whole school as staff have taken ownership of improving outcomes for all children.

A new Deputy Head teacher has been appointed following the resignation of the previous Deputy Head teacher to take up a substantive headship in another school. Governors are supporting a management structure that allows for strong succession planning for continued improvement.

Governors continued to conduct regular visits to the school to monitor internal data, books and accompany staff on learning walks.

Governors have viewed a wide range of pupils' books and can see evidence of good progress over time.

Governors have attended parent evenings to engage with parents to evaluate their satisfaction with the progress children are making at the school.

Governors have considered the projected budget and are satisfied that it is in line with the priorities identified within the strategic plan.

Governors have continued to attend a range of training to help them fulfil their statutory duties. In particular this term, training on E-Safety, health and safety and Looked after children was undertaken.