



Thorntree Primary School  
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Dear Parents/Carers

### **Governors Annual Statement and Impact Report 2015-2016**

The Governing Body of Thorntree Primary School have prepared an annual statement for your consideration.

The Governing Body at our school endeavours to fulfil the role defined by the Government supported by the Co-operative Trust and the Local Authority. In doing so we hope that we can help to make our school the very best it can be for the benefit of our children and even better today than we were yesterday.

The annual statement should explain how we have fulfilled our responsibilities, including:-

- The governance arrangements that are in place, including the remit of any committees.
- The attendance record of individual governors at board and committee meetings
- An assessment with details of any particular challenges that have arisen

Before covering these areas I would firstly like to explain that the Governor role is intended to be strategic in nature while being a “critical friend” to the Head Teacher and the school leadership team who are responsible for the day to day operational running of the school. In reviewing the way the school works, the Governors have gained an enormous respect for all the staff in the school. The amount of effort, care for our children and “going the extra mile” we see on a regular basis from all our staff, is nothing short of inspirational. It is not only academic progress that is in evidence in the school, but the extra-curricular activities such as extended schools clubs, educational visits and sports events that show what a broad and fulfilling education our children benefit from in our school.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to all our staff for the level of effort and care they all contribute as well as the support that you as parents and carers have all given to school



## **Governor Meetings:**

At Thorntree Primary School members of the governing body have played, and continue to play, a strong role in driving the school forward. The current governors who are all listed on the website, all are volunteers, giving up their own time to fulfil the roles for the benefit of our children.

The Governing Body is responsible for three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

There have been ten formal governor meetings for the year 2015 -2016.

Governor attendance has, as always, been of a very good level, with any absences having been fully explained, accepted and approved by the Governing Body.

There are no causes for concern at the level of commitment shown by any member of the Governing Body.

We have a clerk that helps us to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year are covered, and we have two main sub-committees that perform much of the detailed work in accordance with their terms of reference:

## **Finance and Resource Committee:**

Thorntree has a very experienced Chair of Finance who is fully trained in School Financial Management.

The governors work closely with the Head Teacher, School Business Manager and Senior Leaders, and are responsible for setting and monitoring the budget for the school and overseeing the financial management of the school. This also includes the monitoring and examination of spending concerning the out-turn budget during the financial year, together with the monitoring of Pupil Premium expenditure and ensure that relevant details are available on the school website.

Governors appreciate too the requirements of our children's parents and carers and their need to be satisfied with the overall leadership and management of the school and how this affects the safety, learning and enjoyment of their children.

As a result governors are involved in determining the staffing structure and implementing pay policies for all staff including the annual review of staff salaries, ensuring that arrangements for Appraisals/Threshold Payments are adhered to.

Governors consider reports in respect of buildings and premises matters and review Health and Safety Policy and Training. They also oversee and prioritise future developments relating to the buildings and premises of the school.

Governors review all school policies on a programmed basis in accordance with renewal dates, ensuring that all guidance is current and up to date.



## **Raising Achievement Committee:**

The Raising Achievement committee was established in June of this year.

Governors work alongside the Head Teacher and senior leaders in assessing regular reports outlining progress against objectives. The School Action Plan sets aims for the forthcoming year. The School Action Plan for 2016/2017 is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted Priorities.

There are five key objectives as follows:-

- To ensure that the quality of teaching is consistently good or better.
- To ensure Teaching Assistants are effectively deployed.
- To improve pupil's understanding of diverse communities and individuals
- To further develop the effectiveness of leadership and management by sharpening improvement plans to include clearly measurable steps to success and well defined timescale.
- To further develop the effectiveness of leadership by implementing plans to ensure that governors challenge school leaders and hold them to account to increase the pace of improvement.

As part of the remit of this committee governors will approve policies for sex education, religious education and other policies relating to the curriculum as well as monitor and evaluate pupil performance across all year groups. Governors will ensuring pupil's spiritual, moral and cultural development including the promotion of fundamental British Values, are at the heart of the school's work.

Governors visit the school as part of their monitoring programme. These visits are considered a valuable opportunity for governors to be able to work closely with staff members across school.

## **Impact statement – review:**

The Governing Body, the Head Teacher and Senior Management Team and indeed all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school.

There has been effective allocation and imaginative use of sports funding so as to further inspire and up skill teaching staff and pupils. This has resulted in the school achieving the Gold Kite Mark Award for PE.

School has also been awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark, Early Years Foundation Stage Quality Mark and the Primary Science Quality Mark Silver Award.



## Future and Continuous Improvement:

To achieve their objectives governors too must continually evaluate their role within the life of the school.

Areas of focus for the forthcoming year will be:

- Ensure continued improvement in pupil progress and attainment across all cohorts including specific groups ie gender, Pupil premium and SEN
- Raising Achievement Committee Meetings form an integral part of the monitoring arrangements in school
- Governing body able to evidence progress overtime in reading journals, mathematics books and writing books
- Through careful monitoring ensure the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and all others nationally is closing

I hope that this statement has been useful and any comments would be gratefully received

Best Wishes  
Cat Barnett

