



Thorntree Primary School
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Dear Parents/Carers

Governors Annual Statement and Impact Report 2016-2017

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 senior leadership team of the school 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 evident in the school, but the extra-curricular activities such as extended schools clubs, educational visits including residential and sports events that show what a broad, balanced and fulfilling education our children benefit from.

I would like to take this opportunity to say 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, are all volunteers giving up their own time to fulfil their roles for the benefit of our children and wider community.

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 and that best value practices are ensured at all times

There have been ten formal governor meetings for the year 2016 -2017.

Governor attendance (documented on the website) has been of a very good level, with any absences 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.

Our clerk to the Governing Body helps to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year are covered, and that the two sub-committees (Raising Achievement Committee and Finance & Resources Committee) carry out their duties completely and diligently 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, Pupil Premium expenditure and PE and Sports Funding. Details of which can be found on the 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 Policies and Training schedules. Governors also oversee and prioritise future developments relating to the building and school premises.



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 2016.

Working alongside the Head Teacher and senior leaders, Governors have developed their expertise in assessing regular reports outlining progress against objectives. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) details aims for the forthcoming year. The School Improvement Plan for 2017/2018 is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities.

There are three key objectives:-

- To develop leadership and management, including Governance, across the school.
- To improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.
- To develop personal development, behaviour and welfare.

As part of the remit of the Raising Achievement Committee governors will approve a range of curriculum policies including those for sex and relationships education and religious education. Governors will ensure pupil's spiritual, moral and cultural development, including the promotion of fundamental British Values, are at the heart of the school's work. Governors will also monitor and evaluate pupil performance data

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 to ensure:

- Continued improvement in pupil progress and attainment across all cohorts including specific groups ie gender, those children supported by Pupil Premium funding or those with SEND



- Raising Achievement Committee Meetings form an integral part of the monitoring arrangements in school
- Governing Body to evidence progress over time in reading journals, mathematics books and writing books
- Careful monitoring to ensure the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and all others nationally is diminishing

I hope that this statement has been useful. Any comments would be gratefully received

Best Wishes
Cat Barnett

