



Thorntree Primary School
The Greenway
Thorntree
Middlesbrough
TS3 9NH
Tel: 01642 242309

Email: thorntree@mcschools.org.uk
Website: www.thorntreeschool.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs W Nelson

Dear Parents/Carers

Governors Annual Statement and Impact Report 2018-2019

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 eleven formal governor meetings for the year 2018 -2019.

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.

Every year we agree a budget based on funding we receive and allocate funding within the priorities of the School Improvement Plan. We have paid particular attention to the way in which the Pupil Premium and PE and Sports Funding have been allocated ensuring this has been used in the most effective way. We also plan and monitor Capital Investment in the infrastructure of the school. This year amongst other projects, development of a Multi-Use Games Area and increasing access to outdoor learning areas for interventions in the wider curriculum.

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.

Prudent management has enabled us to have a manageable budget for 2019-2020. Funding received per pupil has not kept pace with rising costs which frequently lie outside schools control. Budget scrutiny and cost management are critical and the Governing Body will continue to support and challenge the Head Teacher in this area.

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. Governors have discussed the progress of the (SIP), analysed attainment and progress data and have made focused visits in school. We have interviewed small groups of children, scrutinised books and looked at challenges in improving the accuracy of pupil assessment. This ensures that every pupils learning needs are recognised and tracked.

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 relationships and sex 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

Link Governors have a responsibility for specific areas of interest within school, as part of the monitoring programme and make regular visits into school giving Governors the opportunity to work closely with staff members across school.

Impact statement – review:

2018/2019 was a year when school and Governors focused on raising attainment and pupil progress following a disappointing Ofsted visit. The relentless hard work of staff, pupils and Governors has resulted in a school which continues to grow from strength to strength and of which we are all very proud. Our SATs results this year have shown how much progress we have made and we will continue to improve and develop the school.

School has been awarded the Headstart – Silver Standard, as well as the Inclusion Quality Mark.

Future and Continuous Improvement:

Under new proposals in the Ofsted Inspection Framework there will be more focus on the wider curriculum.

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 ability groups including vulnerable groups and across all cohorts including specific groups ie gender, those children supported by Pupil Premium funding or those with SEND

- Governors continue to visit school for meetings, monitoring visits and other events and ensure these are well-attended, with all Governors contributing.
- Governors have a good understanding of data, reports and policies, to allow for confidence to question and challenge as well as celebrate improvements and success.
- each Governor has a clear understanding of their role and area of responsibility within the Governing Body.

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

Best Wishes
Cat Barnett