



THAMESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODY ANNUAL STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 2015

As set out in the Department for Education Governors' Handbook January 2015 the core functions for the Governing Body are to:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher 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.

As a result the governing body highlight and report the following:

<p>Reconstitution of the Governing Body and review of the governance structure</p>	<p>In line with the legal requirement to reconstitute the governing body, the Thameside Governing Body reconstituted and now comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Elected parent governors • 1 Local Authority governor • 1 Staff governor • Headteacher • 4 Co-opted governors <p>This move has reduced the size of the governing body with the aim of continuing to drive the effectiveness of the governing body against the three core functions highlighted above.</p> <p>The governing body also completed a skills audit to ensure there was the skills and expertise required to be an effective body.</p> <p>As part of this process the governing body decided to move from a committee based structure allied to Full Governing Body meetings to a structure which seeks to make the Full Governing Body meetings the focus, supplemented by specific working parties set up to examine specific areas identified by the Full Governing Body. The purpose of this change is to ensure all members of the Governing Body are equally focussed on the school development plan and key issues to drive better outcomes for pupils, staff and parents.</p>
<p>Staffing</p>	<p>The governors believe that the key to improving standards is the quality of teachers and teaching. Based on observation feedback, learning walks, validation by the local authority, as well as visits by HMI the governors know that we have good teachers and teaching.</p> <p>The 2014-2015 school year has seen an unprecedented level of staffing issues through a mixture of maternity leave absence, teacher moves and sickness. In addition, teacher recruitment in the South-East is a significant issue.</p> <p>As a result staffing has been high on the governors' agenda to ensure standards did not suffer and to ensure there was both challenge and support to address this crucial area.</p> <p>The governors are pleased to report that for the start of the 2015/2016 academic year the school has a full complement of teachers.</p> <p>The challenge remains and as a result the governors have created a working party to look at this issue in greater detail and to look at alternative ways to address not only recruitment but also retention.</p>



<p>Assessment</p>	<p>At the start of the 2014/2015 academic year the previous system of measuring progress through levels was replaced with the introduction of bands:</p> <p>Expected – where the child is working at the level expected for their age</p> <p>Emerging - where the child is working below the level expected for their age</p> <p>Exceeding - where the child is working above the level expected for their age</p> <p>It is for each school to devise an appropriate system to assess the development in and movement between these bands.</p> <p>The governors have overseen the introduction of the school's assessment plans, and acknowledges the work of the headteacher in this area. The governors have also been impressed with how the teachers have embraced this change. The governors are also pleased to report that other schools in the Borough have sought the advice and input from Thameside in developing their own systems.</p>
<p>Curriculum</p>	<p>A new Curriculum was introduced at the start of 2014/2015. The governors had been keen to ensure that this well prepared for and indeed work to prepare for this change had been taking place during the 2013/2014 academic year.</p> <p>The introduction of the new curriculum therefore was delivered as planned.</p>
<p>New building</p>	<p>The year saw a significant construction programme for the school with the building of a new extension to the main school to provide new facilities including two new classrooms a new staff room.</p> <p>The governors were keen to ensure that during construction that disruption was minimised, the project was delivered to specification, and health and safety was prioritised. The governors were also keen to see the main school playing field returned to its original state following the building works.</p> <p>The new building was completed at the end of the summer term and has subsequently added great value to the school. The summer holiday also enabled the school playing field to be restored which is a key feature for the school positively impacting curriculum, social and physical development.</p>
<p>Inclusion</p>	<p>The governing body is unanimous in its desire for the school to provide a quality education for all. Not only are SEN and Pupil Premium areas for specialist governor monitoring, the governors have been regularly updated and have regularly discussed specific cases where the school has been asked to accept pupils that for various reasons have not been accepted elsewhere. In all cases these situations have been extensively discussed to ensure the interests of those individuals and the wider schools both pupils and teachers are taken into account.</p> <p>The governors are delighted to report the exceptional work of teachers and teaching assistants to transition these pupils into the school safely and securely and are also pleased to report the positive development and progression of these children.</p> <p>The governors have asked the headteacher and deputy headteacher to investigate further ways to secure this strength of the school.</p>
<p>Contacting the Governing Body</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Mark Harper, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors and more information on the Governors' page of the school website.</p>