

Governors' Report to Parents and Carers December 2015

I'm pleased to introduce this second report on the work of the governing body this year.

Full Governing Body

At its second meeting in this academic year the full governing body approved this year's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities information report which has now been posted on the website. We reviewed the impact of school improvement plans put in place for the first 10 weeks of the school year and endorsed subsequent improvement plans. Our school leaders provide us with high quality evaluative reports and draft improvement plans which enable us to fulfil our responsibility to hold them to account for all aspects of the school's performance. The minutes of our meetings demonstrate the constructive dialogue that takes place between governors and school leaders and these are available from the school office to anyone who wishes to read them.

The Deputy Head Teacher presented pupil performance data for scrutiny by the governing body and we were able to identify areas for further consideration by the Performance and Standards committee the following week.

We approved the Governing Body's Behaviour Principles statement and policies relating to Behaviour; Special Educational Needs; Anti Radicalisation; Relationships and Sex Education. Each of these can be found on the school website.

Performance and Standards Committee

As always our November meeting was a busy one. We try to rigorously support and challenge the school and our clear focus is on promoting pupil progress. In this meeting we checked up on some of the priority issues that had been raised at the previous full governing body meeting. These included monitoring Y1 pupils who did not reach the foundation stage goals at the end of last year; Progress on the Raiseonline Key Messages; and how assessment is being used to support differentiated lessons particularly for more able children.

The headteacher reported on the effectiveness of the Performance management policy and its effect on pupil progress. In addition we received our regular updates on English, Maths and Science action plans and progress so far. We received reports from subject leaders on History and Computing, and also we discussed three SEND case studies. Feedback from governor monitoring visits to school is always an interesting feature of our meetings and this time we looked at English, SEN, School Values, and pupil safeguarding.

Resources Committee

This committee continues to maintain strategic oversight of the allocation of financial resources, ensuring that the school obtains good value for money and that resources are allocated to support school improvement priorities that will benefit current pupils at the school. At this meeting the committee was pleased to note that the recent investment in updating IT equipment, including interactive whiteboards and lap tops was already providing benefits for pupils. We were also pleased to note that plans are in place to use the class IPADS to regularly update the class pages on the school website so that parents and carers can see, at a glance, the exciting learning taking place at Holbrook School. The committee asked to be kept informed of this initiative.

At each meeting of the resources committee, the School's Business Manager presents financial reports that enable the committee to monitor the school's spending against predicted expenditure and to approve any proposed changes in budget allocation that come within its remit. At this meeting we approved some

changes to the school's Charging Policy which can be found on the school's website or available as a paper copy from the school office. We also considered reports showing how Holbrook School allocates its resources compared with similar schools.

The Resources Committee is responsible for maintaining strategic oversight of the school's premises, ensuring that pupils are provided with a safe and stimulating learning environment. At this meeting, the committee was pleased to note the progress made on action plans compiled following premises risk assessments.

The governing body will continue to focus its efforts on fulfilling its 3 key roles across the work of all its committees and through monitoring activities delegated to individual governors. The 3 key roles of the governing body are to:

- ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- hold the head-teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Evidence of the governing body fulfilling its role of ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction can be found in the school's current strategic plan which is under the School Development Section of the website. The statements listed at the beginning of the strategic plan summarise the governors/staff shared ambition for Holbrook Pupils. It is our ambition that:

- All children from the local community are welcomed
- Diversity is valued and celebrated, all pupils and adults are treated with respect and 'pupils' voice' is a strength
- We use our best endeavours to overcome barriers to learning
- We develop and encourage excellence and effectiveness in teaching and strive to ensure that pupils from our school are not disadvantaged
- We work with other schools and community partners to deliver good quality provision across all curriculum areas
- Our approach to the curriculum is creative and innovative, encourages critical thinking and addresses the interests of our pupils; learning is stimulating and challenging and pupils become lifelong learners
- Citizenship, the global dimension and sustainability are integrated parts of our school ethos

We hope parents and carers share this ambition and the school's values of:

Aspiration: Curiosity, Collaboration, Respect, Resilience, Innovation

We believe that a shared commitment to these will help us achieve the school's mission to Inspire, Nurture and Challenge every child so that they realise their full potential. The governing body looks forward to continuing to work with staff, parents, carers and wider community partners in pursuit of this ambition. If you would like to offer feedback on any aspect of this report I can be contacted via the school office or by contacting the clerk to governors at governors@holbrook.wilts.sch.uk

Finally, I hope you and your families have an enjoyable Christmas break

Margaret Hunt

Chair of Governors

10 December 2015