

## **Highfield Primary School Governing Body** **2015/16 Annual Statement**

Our Governing Body Chair, Nancy Lester, writes:

Work the Governing Body has undertaken this year includes:

The Governing Body as a whole has reviewed our working practices and identified some areas where we could be more effective. We are drawing up plans to improve our approach to succession planning; to create more consistent induction processes for new governors; to better define the responsibilities of each distinct governor role; and to undertake a skills audit to inform our training needs, building on our existing information.

We have also had a focus on improving communication between the Governing Body and the school community which has been effective in helping optimise the input and impact of the Governing Body and raising its profile. This has been achieved by-

- Governors attending and contributing to staff meetings to discuss the School Improvement Plan
- Developing the role of Link Governors - each Governor is now linked with a Class. The staff Governor Representative has a role in coordinating this.
- Re-constitution of the Governing Body which has enabled us to co-opt Associate Governors with relevant skills e.g. Steve Binns on the Resources Committee with his expertise on buildings and Mark Rudd who is supporting the development of Physical Education.
- Informing parents about changes to the National Curriculum and Assessment by providing opportunities to attend meeting on mathematics and phonics and information to explain the Annual School Report for pupils
- Questionnaires for parents collecting their views about the school and if their children feel safe and secure
- Developing strong links with the Friends of Highfield by supporting events and sharing information

We have also worked closely with the school in redesigning and updating the school website, which was relaunched for the start of the 15/16 academic year.

## **Resources Committee-Chair Sheryl Richmond**

We had discussions with Leeds City Council in planning how the school was able to support the local families who so much wanted their child to come to Highfield but were not allocated a place and, at the same time improving our facilities. These include plans for a new school hall and a new building to house our after school club. These were agreed and implemented over a short timeframe to ensure the facilities were in place for the 2015/16 academic year. This was delivered successfully with substantial commitment, energy and hard work from staff, governors and other representatives of the school community, working closely with Leeds City Council. We are working on plans to implement the extension to the school hall, with a representative working party established. Building work is planned over Summer 2015/16 and due to be completed for the start of the 2016/7 academic year..

## **Teaching and Learning –Chair Margaret Maiden**

Margaret Maiden is our Link Governor with the School Council. Margaret has been attending School Council meetings to ensure that the Governing Body hears issues that are concerning children in school, and to help school councillors understand the Governing Body's role in leadership and management of the school.

Members of the Committee took part in the annual visit of the School Improvement Partner where standards and achievement of pupils were discussed. The high standards in maths and English have been maintained in line with the new curriculum and Government targets.

## **Pupil Support Committee Chair -Claire Hills**

Claire Hills has been involved in devising a questionnaire for parents who have children with Special Educational Needs to find out their views on how the school meets the needs of their children. This has led to positive changes in the timing and frequency of parent /staff meetings to discuss their children's progress.

Lisa Henry, Governor for Child Protection has led a review of the Child Protection Policy and Keeping Children Safe in School.

This year governors have also been involved in:

- recruiting new teachers;
- seeing that end of key stage tests are administered in line with the Department for Education's rules;
- setting a budget for the next three years and monitoring the in-year budget position;
- monitoring attendance levels and agreeing strategies for improving attendance;
- ensuring the school fulfils its health and safety and child safeguarding requirements;
- monitoring the educational attainment and progress of pupils across the school
- setting and measuring performance objectives for Headteacher.

We look forward to another successful and productive year supporting the success of the school. We are committed to ensuring our children receive the highest quality teaching and learning delivered by excellent staff and an exciting and challenging curriculum and have a happy and safe experience at school.

!