



# Governors Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> Edition June 2016

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**This is a new update to parents and carers from the Governors of KWS. We look forward to dispatching future updates three times per year.**

**It's hard to believe we are almost at the end of the academic year. This year has been very exciting and eventful for King William Street C of E Primary School and Governors are playing a significant part in the progress which our school is making, but a question we are often asked...**

## **“What Do Governors Actually Do?” ...**

So I thought it would be useful to begin with an overview of Governance at KWS:

- We meet monthly as a full governing Body, and every other month a sub-group meet as the Finance Committee.
- We discuss and agree the strategic priorities and targets for the school.
- We define and review the vision and ethos of the school.
- We collaborate with the Headteacher to ensure that all children, including those with special educational needs, have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.
- We monitor the school's budget, including the expenditure of the pupil premium allocation.
- We discuss the school's staffing structure and staffing policies.
- We agree the principles to be used by the Headteacher to set other school policies.
- The Governing Body holds the Headteacher to account by continually monitoring the school's performance and tracking progress against the School Development Plan (SDP) – which is a detailed document covering all the current priorities for improvement.
- We scrutinise relevant performance data; we ask challenging questions of the Head; we ensure that the Headteacher has arranged for the required audits to be carried out and we securitise the results of those audits.
- We ensure the Headteacher has developed the required policies and procedures and that the school is operating according to those policies.
- We ensure that the school staff has the resources and support they require to do their jobs successfully, and are able to access external “best practice” advice where necessary.
- We ensure an effective staff appraisal and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme is in place and working well.
- We ensure that the premises are being managed and maintained properly within agreed budgets and where possible: improved.
- When required, individual Governors will serve on specific panels including: staff recruitment; Performance management of the Headteacher; hearing the second stage of staff grievances and disciplinary matters; hear appeals about pupils exclusions; hearing about complaints against the Headteacher.
- “Link Governors” visit the school regularly to liaise with the relevant staff members on specific priority areas; and then write up and deliver visit reports to the Full Governing Body, which detail the progress being made against the relevant priority in the SDP.

# So Far This Year



## The New Classroom Corridor

Governors were very pleased to be able to visit the newly built classroom corridor. The Headteacher and Bursar worked very hard to secure funding for this exciting project and collaborated with the Finance Committee - who assisted on budgeting and progress tracking. As a school we are extremely tight for useable space and the new Classroom Corridor has enabled us to properly separate the upstairs classrooms and make much better use of available space.

## Dyslexia Friendly School Status

We are proud that the school has been awarded “Dyslexia Friendly School Status”, which we gained in March 2016. The Dyslexia Friendly Schools teaching approach is integral to our school and benefits all children. Dyslexia is a LEARNING DIFFERENCE - a combination of abilities and difficulties that affect the learning process in one or more of reading, writing and spelling. Some learners have very well developed creative and/ interpersonal skills, others have strong oral skills. All have strengths.

One of our Foundation Governors – Lynda – worked very closely with the SENCo and teaching assistants over the past year on this objective to achieve this award and it’s a great example of how the partnership between the school staff and Governors can work effectively together. New SEN link Governors have picked up the baton from Lynda and will continue to work effectively for the monitoring and improvement of our SEN provision.



## The Stagecoach Site

Over the last 4 years members of the Governing Body and Headteacher have spent dozens of hours trying to find a way to acquire the adjacent Stagecoach site in order to expand the school. This included working with the Local Authority, the Education Funding Agency, the Department of Education, meeting with our local MP and Councillors; working with an architect to draw up detailed plans for what a new King William Street school might have looked like and writing directly to Stagecoach to try to find some way forward. As you may already be aware - despite our best efforts and lots of support from all of the agencies listed, we were unsuccessful in our efforts solely because we were unable to acquire the land.



I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Summer break and look forward to an even better 2017 academic year!

Yours sincerely, Greg Evans (Chair of Governors)