

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF MOBBERLEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL 2017/8

The Governing Body of Mobberley C of E Primary School consists of two Parent Governors, one Local Authority Governor, one Staff Governor, the Head Teacher, two Foundation Governors and three Co-opted Governors (Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who in its opinion have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school).

The Governing Body has three core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The two Foundation Governors are Father Ian Blay, the Rector of St. Wilfrid's Church and Val Baker. Father Ian leads weekly collective worship in School as well as supporting classes in their religious studies. Nativity services take place in St. Wilfrid's as do beginning and end of term services. Our children love going to the Church. Christian values are intrinsic to the work of the School and are fully endorsed by the Governing Body.

In March elections took place for the two Parent Governor positions as the terms for Paul Tarne and Jennifer O'Donoghue came to an end. Paul Tarne stood again and was elected alongside Kate Rawlings-Brown.

Karen Whalley is now the Staff Governor and Councillor Jamie Macrae represented the Local Authority (Cheshire East). Helen Mountney (Chair), Nicola Whiteley (Deputy Chair) and Alistair MacLeod continue to serve as Co-opted Governors.

The full Governing Body meets at least twice a term and the Buildings, Personnel, Finance and Curriculum sub-committees meet termly to consider different aspects of the school in detail. There are also committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

In the community, pupils took part in the Rose Queen Festival and Civic Sunday.

Work Done in 2017-8

Buildings

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing the Governing Body and focused on by the Buildings sub-committee revolves around the success of the school in growing its pupil numbers. The limiting sizes of the Hall and the current Year 6 classroom had already been identified and discussions have taken place to consider options and funding opportunities which have specific windows within which school can apply. This work is underway.

More routinely, the sub-committee carries out a termly assessment of the school's fabric to monitor any area that requires maintenance or improvement. An annual professional tree survey is now carried out and any necessary work authorised. With the assistance of PTA funding, part of the infant play area that had become unusable was resurfaced with an all-weather surface, significantly improving the overall play facilities.

The safety of staff and pupils must never be taken for granted and work is scheduled for the year 2018/9 that will improve the security of a number of entry and exit points. Fire drills are routinely carried out to test evacuation procedures.

Personnel

The sub-committee monitors the performance management of all staff including the Head Teacher, ensuring that ambitious targets are met and set for the next academic year. It also supports the Head Teacher in the recruitment of staff. Members of the Governing Body have undergone training in Safer Recruitment and monitor the review and introduction of key policies.

Curriculum

This sub-committee looks at all aspects of the curriculum within the school and receives updates on SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) from Clare Bentzien our SENco, Enrichment Days, Pupil Premium and how it is spent, and Teaching & Learning. The senior leadership team of Mr Stenson, Mrs Murray and Mrs Whalley have looked beyond the conventional areas of Reading, Writing and Maths when looking at how pupil premium funding is spent, to consider the non-curricular needs of some of the children and to consider what additional support might be put in place.

Of particular note this year was the visit to Nepal by two members of staff as part of the Global Learning Initiative, and a visit by a Syrian refugee to the School to tell his story of migration. Global Enrichment Days have looked at Christmas around the world as well as activities centred on the Nepal visit and traditional crafts.

Year 6 pupils continued to take part in the Young Leaders Initiative. This year they chose 'Mobberley Rocks': painting stones with motivational messages and positioning them around the village, supported by the use of social media to encourage villagers to photograph them and to place them in a new location.

Visits took place to Manchester Cathedral (Year 3) and Chester Cathedral's Pilgrim Day (Year 6).

Finance

Finance in education continues to be a key concern for governing bodies. This year the committee has had to look critically at areas of spend to ensure that the school balances its budget while providing for essential building maintenance and as much activity and individual pupil and classroom support as can be afforded.

Future Plans

Two key areas of focus in the year 2108/9 will be the current building capacity constraints referred to earlier and the provision of after-school care to replace that lost by the closure of Mops, the independent after-school club.