

Governors' Annual Statement to Parents

Please find below a statement from our Governing Body, in line with DfE guidance.

The role of the Governing Body is to work in a supportive capacity with the whole school community:

- Strategic Direction - to ensure that Pickering Infant and Nursery School has a clear vision and ethos, an effective plan to achieve our vision and steps in place to ensure that we do.
- Accountability - to hold the Headteacher and her team to account for the performance of Pickering Infant and Nursery School in all respects and in particular to ensure that our children are given every opportunity to achieve success.
- Best Value - making sure that the school finances are managed in a way that achieves best value for money impact for our children.

The Governors' role is intended to be both challenging and supportive to the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team, who are responsible for the day to day operational running of the school. The Governing Body appreciate the work that the staff do, the amount of effort, care for our children, and "going the extra mile" we see on a regular basis from our whole staff team. In return, the staff team respect the support and challenge of the Governing Body.

The following are some of the ways in which the Governing Body impact on the strategic development of the school:

School Development Plan (SDP)

Governors monitor and support the development of the SDP. The SDP sets aims and priorities for the school each academic year. The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. Governors take on a key role in monitoring and supporting work towards each SDP action and reports these termly to the Full Governing Body.

Governor visits

The Governors are invited to visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP and of other specific areas. Governors develop substantial knowledge of our school through reading through documentation in preparation for meetings, talking to staff on different aspects of the curriculum, spending time in school working with children and staff and attending key school events and visits.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a key part of the Governing Body role in ensuring that our school continues to be a safe and enjoyable place for each and every child to grow and learn. As such there are specific Governors with responsibility for working with the Headteacher to audit provision, continually look at ways to improve on the good practice already in school and to report this back to the Full Governing Body.

Data analysis

Progress and attainment data is shared regularly with Governors to monitor pupil progress across year groups. This is compared annually to the Local Authority data and the data for schools nationally to ensure that the schools standards and expectations are high and are able to be closely scrutinised.

Policies

Governors review all relevant policies on a programmed basis to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list and the Local Authority recommended list.

Financial management

Governors have responsibility for monitoring and approving the school budget. The impact of the governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous.

In 2014/15 the Governing Body supported the school in

- raising standards in reading, writing and maths across school
- implementing new assessment systems for Key Stage One (Years One and Two)
- continuing to develop the effectiveness of interventions

The focus for 2015/16 is

- developing spelling, punctuation and grammar in line with the new requirements of the National Curriculum
- ensuring activities for developing pupils' skills in linking letters and sounds in Year 1 are always challenging so that the good progress that children make in phonics in the early years is effectively built upon
- using the expertise that exists in the school to develop teachers' practice so that all pupils have more opportunities to apply their mathematical skills to problem-solving and investigative activities

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body is made up of twelve positions as follows:

One Local Authority Governor, six Co-opted Governors (people from the wider school community, three Parent Governors, one Staff Governor, the Headteacher Clerk to the Governors (Not eligible to vote)

The current list of Governors can be found on the school website (www.pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk). All Governors are volunteers, who give up their own time to fulfil the roles for the benefit of our school and our children.

We have three sub-committees that meet termly in accordance with their terms of reference:

- Standards and Curriculum
- Finance and Staffing
- Safeguarding, Premises, Health and Safety

Our Governing Body is made up of a wide range of interested members from our local community who, whilst they are not educational specialists, bring a wide range of experience and skills from other professions that help us together to form an effective Governing Body.