



15 July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Review of School Governance 2015/16

I am writing to give you an update on one of the key areas of the OFSTED Inspection which relates to the Governance of Avondale School. The OFSTED report recommended that there should be an External Review of Governance so that Governors could more effectively challenge School Leaders, holding them to account for the impact of their actions on the education of all children at Avondale.

An external Consultant who is a National Leader of Governance was contracted to undertake this review into all aspects of Governance and to produce an Action Plan for Governors. This was completed by the end of April 2016. The report was reviewed by the full Governing Board and we then incorporated the key elements into the School's OFSTED Action Plan to produce a fully documented and working Plan.

For your information I show below the key areas:

- Improving the effectiveness of the Governing Board by gaining a better understanding of pupil performance data in order to challenge the School's Senior Leadership Team
- Identifying areas where Governance skills needed improvement
- Governors being more involved with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher in the development and production of the Vision and Ethos of the School
- To have a succession Plan for the Governing Board with particular reference to the posts of Chair and Vice Chair
- To ensure that all meetings are minuted to the same high standard with questions and answers highlighted
- To have a greater knowledge of the use of Pupil Premium money and its impact on narrowing the attainment gap for those pupils who qualify for the grant through a regular monitoring process. Pupil Premium is now a standing Agenda item at all Full Governing Board meetings.
- To conduct a Mid-Year review of the Headteacher's objectives to check progress towards their achievement
- To encourage all Governors to take advantage of the training courses provided by the Local Authority Governor Services Team
- To encourage the use of "best practice" by forging links with other Governing Boards both inside and outside the Borough
- To undertake an external review of teaching, possibly using the Lancashire School Improvement Service
- To continue to hold regular meetings between the Headteacher and Chair of Governors; the main change to this already established is that these meetings will be minuted.

The Governor's Action Plan is now the subject of regular reviews which will continue until a return visit by our Consultant in November 2016.

In addition to the more formal side of being a Governor of Avondale School, you will find overleaf a whole host of other ongoing activities that Governors have been involved in during the school year.

I would like to close this rather formal note by thanking all Parents and Carers for their ongoing support to the school which helps to make the role of all staff and Governors so much easier (and fun, too!!)

Kind Regards,

John Bentley- Chair of Governors

This year the Governors have...

Welcomed 4 new parent governors.

Been involved in lesson observations, seeing some of the excellent teaching and learning taking place across school.

Enjoyed watching the pantomimes with the children.

Adopted several new policies for school...all of which can be seen on the website.

Added our profiles to the website.

Attended lots of training including some INSET training and a Governor refresher with Governors from Holy Trinity. This was attended by all Avondale governors.

Attended celebration assemblies and class assemblies.

Been involved in the appointment of our new Head Teacher (we think she will be great!)

Been involved in Pupil Voice.

MET AND MADE LINKS WITH THE NEW CURRICULUM LEADS.

Had regular meetings about pupil welfare.

Had a great time joining in with activities in Space weeks!

Been on several great school trips.

Been finding out about the new, exciting Maths scheme to be rolled out in September.

Attended the new intake meeting, and spoke to new parents about our roles.

Been involved with the School Council and attended some of their meetings.

Been to Derby with the Money Matters pupils to show good practice around debt awareness.

Thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas plays and the spring play.

Supported at cross country events.

Also...

We were ready with our wellies and umbrellas to cheer everyone at sports day!



We are looking forward to...

The year 6 play and presentation night and the leavers' assembly.

We wish all of our year 6 leavers the best of luck as they move onto their new schools.