

Hollydale Governing Board Annual Statement of Impact 2014/15

Introduction

The Governing Board would like to thank all the staff for their hard work over the past year. We were pleased that the school met its targets in the end of year SATs results. This comes as a result of better use of pupil tracking and improvements in the standards of teaching, as confirmed by the Local Authority reviews throughout the year.

It's also been great to see parents getting more involved especially in this year's garden project. Parents helped clear the garden, run the after school gardening club and obtain a grant to provide plants and furniture to develop the garden into a space for learning. This was further enhanced by a group of pupils who created a fantastic mural with the help of graffiti artist Pow as part of a project with Dulwich Picture Gallery. Pupils also worked on a beautiful mosaic highlighting the school's values; Respect, Responsibility and Relationships.

Hollydale's School motto is "Working together to be the best that we can be". As our report shows this has been a developing theme for the Governing Board over the past year, as well as for the school, and one we will continue to work on going forwards. An immediate task for the new school year will be to fill existing vacancies on the governing board to help us ensure that we can hold the school to account effectively, with a renewed emphasis on ensuring that the school's resources are managed to the best advantage. Governors believe that all pupils at Hollydale are entitled to the best possible education to help them become the best they can be.

Full Governing Board

The board met 5 times.

We undertook a skills audit to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the board of governors as a whole and have started the process to fill a long standing Co-opted governor vacancy as well as more recently vacated local authority vacancy to complement the existing skills of the board.

We have planned a governing board development day for September 2015 to further review our effectiveness and plan for the future.

We agreed the school's proposal to restructure the support staff in order to ensure pupils at Hollydale have the best support in the classroom.

Individual governors have taken on responsibility in key areas as link governors and this is something we plan to continue in the future via our new governors action plan. The plan is linked to the school action plan and provides details about how each committee and the link governors will work to hold the school to account and ensure good financial management and ensure the school works towards our strategic aims.

Governors were pleased to see the improvements to the school that happened over summer 2014 with an improved reception area, painting of corridors and the lower hall. New dining tables have also been purchased.

Over the year we agreed that the Head Teacher should provide a verbal report mid way through the term and a more detailed written report at the end of each term to enable governors to review and assess progress without placing too much burden on the Head Teacher.

Governor visits:

In November three governors met with the School Improvement Partner as part of a Local Authority review. The reviewer noted that it was clear that governors knew the school and worked well together. A number of items were raised regarding safeguarding, the school website, the depth of knowledge that governors have about aspects of the school, which have been followed up by the relevant link governors and/or committees.

Resources Committee

Chair: Stephen Semple

The committee met 4 times.

Following the IT Audit of 2013/14 we agreed the provision of new IT equipment to ensure the school had the right equipment to deliver the new computing curriculum. The ICT Link governor reviewed the contracts and was able to secure a loyalty discount reducing the cost by £1000.

We arranged expert consultation on the roofing improvements focussing on saving the school money and ensuring a safe environment.

For next year we have increased the staff training budget to support retention and excellence in the quality of teaching. Following the previous year's decision to invest in works on the premises governors have started to increase the surplus held by the school in order to secure it against future shocks.

Governor visits:

Link governor for Finance visited in February.

Link governor for premises undertook a thorough visit and review of the school in March. As a result of this visit an up to date asset register is being developed.

Attainment and Learning Committee

Chair: Fred Sharrock

The Committee met 5 times.

It reviewed the curriculum policy and the SEN policy to ensure that these reflected Hollydale's educational aims, complied with new legislation in both areas and provided useful information for parents. The committee also reviewed the educational visits policy, which the school has in order to provide stimulating visits whilst keeping children safe.

The committee holds the school's Senior Leadership Team to account for the performance of the school by regularly reviewing the attainment and progress of children at Hollydale. The committee has requested that science data is reported in the next academic year to extend the ambitions we have for Hollydale pupils across the curriculum, beyond numeracy and literacy.

The new literacy lead gave a presentation to the committee at the start of the summer term.

Hollydale has a high number of pupils leaving and starting through the school year, the governing board has asked for data on how stable each cohort (year group) is, to be reassured that pupils who are at Hollydale continue to make progress throughout their time at Hollydale.

Governor Visits:

Curriculum: Two link governors attended an inset day in January on the international curriculum so governors could be assured that there is a broad and balanced curriculum at the school. (literacy & pupil premium link & SEN & Safeguarding link).Governors think that attendance at staff training is an important part of understanding the school and some governors are attending the inset day in September on safeguarding.

Numeracy: The Link governor for numeracy made two visits in January and June. The visits gave assurance that the school had a maths plan in place and that it was progressing to plan to ensure that the quality of the teaching in maths and the children's achievement in the subject continue to improve.

Pupils, Parents and Community Committee

Chair: Toni-Marie Spong

The committee met 2 times.

Reviewed the new safeguarding policy and recommended it for approval.

Reviewed the school website against statutory requirements in November and June. Following the initial review the school has put a lot of effort into ensuring the right information is available via the website. The second review identified a few areas still to be updated to fully meet statutory requirements.

Requested that more detailed absence and punctuality data and information on behaviour be included in HT report and it was provided for the final report of the year. The data augments anecdotal reports and ensures the governing board is better informed, understands the issues faced by pupils at the school and can monitor this data to ensure actions to improve these areas have an impact and that pupils at Hollydale are safe and ready to learn.

Provided input into recruitment of parent support worker.

Provided advice on school website provider. Governors met with a prospective provider but advised the HT to stay with current provider and develop website content rather than pay for a new sit altogether.

Governor visits:

Anti-Bullying and British Values, November: Committee Chair attended assembly during Anti-Bullying week, met with the school council and peer mediators. These pupils were a credit to the school. The visit gave assurance that these issues are being proactively addressed.

Parental Engagement, February: Committee Chair met with the Head Teacher to discuss a range of issues related to parental engagement including the school website, job description for the Parent Support Worker role and communication of key events.

Attendance, February: Committee Chair met with office staff and SEN Coordinator. The visit provided assurance that processes for monitoring attendance and following up persistent absence and punctuality issues are in place.

School Improvement Oversight Board

Chair: Paul Bennett

The Committee met 3 times.

The School Improvement Oversight Board was put in place after the last Ofsted inspection to ensure the school responded quickly and effectively to the issues raised in the report. This year the board has focussed on how the governing board could be more effective including instigating the governors skills audit, governors action plan and development day (set for October 2015). The board reviewed the School IT Audit and the Audit of Financial Management Systems. The Board approved the Charging and Remissions Policy.

Governor Development during 2014-15

Attending training ensures that governors keep up to date with key developments in education and schools, and develop their understanding of different areas of school life, statutory requirements and the ofsted inspection regime in order to better perform their duties.

Governors have attended the following training courses during the 2014/15 academic year:

- Preparing for Ofsted
- Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation
- Pupil Premium Funding
- Safeguarding in Schools
- Head's Appraisal
- The New National Curriculum
- Developing the Strategic Role of Governors
- Formal Hearings: disciplinary, capability and grievance

In addition representatives of the board have attended all three Southwark Governors Association Meetings.