

Governing Body Report for Parents 2017/2018

In the past we have prepared a very detailed report of everything governors have done during the year. For some time we have published the minutes of all full Governing Body meetings on the school website. We now also publish minutes of Committee meetings as well as reports of governor monitoring visits. Bearing this in mind, the Governing Body has decided that it would be more useful to give parents a brief summary of the main items that have been discussed or decided during this academic year.

If you would like any more information about the items listed below or about the Governing Body, firstly, consult the governor pages on the school website (<http://littlepaxton.cambs.sch.uk/>) and, if you cannot find the information you are looking for there, please contact us through our Clerk (JMarshall@littlepaxton.cambs.sch.uk).

The Governing Body has a **general responsibility for the conduct of the school** with a view to promoting high standards. It acts in a strategic manner to help direct **school development**.

There are 3 main strands to the Governing Body's role. They are:

1. To take a **strategic role** in the running of the school, agreeing the vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school.
2. To **hold to account** the school and the Head Teacher for the educational standards at the school.
3. To ensure sound, proper and **effective** use of resources.

The Governing body is often described as a **critical friend** to the school: that is it both challenges and supports the school and the Head Teacher.

Working strategically

Without doubt the most important task the Governing Body undertook this year was to recruit and appoint a new Head Teacher. We are delighted that Mrs Nickie Moore will be joining the school as Head Teacher in September.

Having previously agreed that Miss Watts could undertake training as a Maths Mastery Specialist and that Mrs Hawkes could take on the role of Maths Hub Teaching Lead, we grasped the opportunity for Miss Watts to visit Shanghai to see for herself how maths is taught in China, and also for Little Paxton School to act as host to the Chinese teachers visiting the UK. This was a fantastic experience for these staff in particular but, more importantly, gave our children and all the staff at Little Paxton an experience they could not otherwise have had. It has not only raised the profile of maths in school, it has also led to improvements and innovation in the teaching of maths.

The Governing Body agreed to a restructuring of the school's leadership team last year and appointed Phase Leaders to be responsible for each phase (Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2). This is in readiness for when the school has grown to 60 pupils in each year group. The Governing Body supported and agreed that the new Phase Leaders should undertake the NPQML (National Professional Qualification for Middle Leaders).

Holding the School to Account

In 2016/2017 the school received £53,954 in pupil premium funding. The Curriculum & Standards Committee received and evaluated a report of the effect this had had and were pleased to note the positive impact on pupil engagement and particularly the improvement in reading. The Social Capital Group had been an expensive project but the positive impact has continued beyond the end of the project and governors agreed it should be continued, although in a scaled down format.

Governors receive anonymised data indicating pupil progress and attainment throughout the year. Since the introduction of Phase Leaders governors are pleased to have received more detailed information about each year group as the Phase Leaders collect and collate the data for their own phases. This enables governors to ask more incisive questions and so gain a better overview of the school's performance.

The Governing Body appoints a Panel of 3 governors who are responsible for the Head Teacher's performance manager. The Head Teacher and senior staff are responsible for appraising the performance of other staff. Increments in salary are determined by the Governing Body's Salary Committee and are linked to performance objectives for staff.

Ensuring Effective Use of Resources

School budgets are under ever greater pressure, Little Paxton School's budget is no different from others. There is also the added pressure of opening new classes as the school moves to 2-form entry. Ideally we would open 2 classes in each year group immediately. However, the school only receives funding for this year based on the number of children on roll in the previous year: there is an inevitable lag between admitting more pupils and receiving the funding for those pupils. The Finance Committee has worked with the Head Teacher to manage the growth of the school within the funds available.

Governors have also ensured that there is effective, affordable cover for teaching staff during maternity leaves and other absences. The Personnel Committee has worked with the Head Teacher to appoint temporary and permanent staff to meet the needs of the school and all its pupils.

The Site & Buildings Committee has prioritised work to be carried out following the extension to the building in 2016/2017. The Committee has also ensured that any snagging issues have been satisfactorily resolved by the contractors.

It's Good to Talk

The Governing body is always pleased to hear from parents with comments (positive or otherwise) and concerns. You can write to us at school or if you wish to speak to a governor please contact us through the Clerk to the Governors (JMarshall@littlepaxton.cambs.sch.uk) or via the School Office.

And finally, may I remind you that there is an opportunity for parents/carers to meet and talk with the governors about this report and any other aspect of our work on Tuesday 10th July; governors will be available at the Open School evening between 3.30 and 4.30pm and again between 5.30 and 7.00pm. We look forward to seeing you at then.