

## Marriott Primary School

### **Governors' Annual Statement to Parents – 2017-18**

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Department for Education recommends that schools' Governing Bodies make annual statements to parents. This statement will explain how we fulfilled our responsibilities in the 2017-18 school year.

It sets out:

- That governance arrangements that are in place, including the remit of our meetings
- An assessment of the effectiveness of the Governing Body
- Details of particular curriculum initiatives that the governors have focussed on and monitored over the school year.

#### **Key Role**

School governors at Marriott work closely with the head teacher, and focus mainly on three core functions:

- Setting the school's strategic framework and ensuring all statutory duties are met;
- Acting as a 'critical friend,' supporting the head teacher and the senior leadership team, holding them to account for the day-to-day running of the school and the progress of our pupils;
- Overseeing the school's financial performance and ensuring its money is well-spent.

In reviewing the way the school works, the Governors have gained a huge respect for staff at the school. We are so grateful for the levels of skill, effort, professionalism, and care for the children that we see on a regular basis, and would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks for all they do.

#### **How we are organised**

Our Governing Body is made up of 11 Governors, appointed as follows:

- Two parent Governors, appointed by a ballot of parents
- 1 local authority governor
- 6 co-opted governors
- One Staff Governor, appointed by a ballot of the school staff
- The head teacher

## **Organisation of our Governors Meetings**

In the past the school has struggled to recruit and retain governors but we now have a number of talented and committed governors who have been recruited from a range of backgrounds. A list of the current Governors can be found on the school website.

As a result of previous recruitment issues, the governing body decided to meet on a monthly basis and to cover most of the business of the governing body at the monthly meetings rather than continue with the standard form of committees.

Monthly meetings ensure that the curriculum and performance of all pupils are covered and are responsible for reviewing what the children are taught and how well they are being taught it. Other areas covered are the maintenance of the buildings, all matters relating to health and safety, attendance, behaviour, the school in the community and many other aspect of the day to day running of the school.

However, two main committees were retained or re-established; The Pay and Performance Committee. This committee is responsible for working with the Head Teacher to annually determine salary progression for eligible staff and auditing the school's Performance Management processes. This committee is also responsible for managing the Head teacher's Performance Management process.

The Finance Committee which plays a pivotal role in ensuring the school's finances remain in good order and spending linked closely to the school's development plan. This committee also takes responsibility for setting and monitoring the school budget and personnel matters, overseeing the financial management of the school,

There are also a number of statutory roles that individual governors take on eg Safeguarding in the school, Pupil Premium and Sports Premium. Once again, details of those filling these roles are available on the school website.

## **How we are doing?**

We meet as a Governing Body at least 10 times a year. However, attendance at meetings is only part of the role, as most governors try to visit the school as often as possible, in order to meet with staff and pupils and to monitor different aspects of school life.

Governors are required to complete reviews of subject areas based on the needs of the current School Development Plan. After a visit to the school they

will present a report to the Governing Body, all reports can be found on the school's website.

Governors are also encouraged to attend Governor training activities, to ensure that we are able to fulfil our roles. We continue to review our effectiveness and annually complete an audit of our skills and areas of expertise.

Governors have regularly attended school events in 2017-18 such as year group assemblies, Christmas and Summer Fayres, music events, parent's evenings and celebration assemblies. This offers us the opportunity to meet parents and to gain valuable knowledge on how well the school is doing and possible areas for improvement.

### **What we have been focusing on in 2017-18**

It would take far too long to address everything we have discussed and decided over the course of the last year. However, the main areas we addressed in 2017-18 included:

#### **Safeguarding**

A group of governors visited the school over two days to meet with the Senior Leadership Team and the school's Safeguarding lead to complete the annual Safeguarding Audit. This audit is a requirement for all schools in the city and the school takes its role in maintaining the highest levels of safeguarding of its pupils extremely seriously.

#### **The School Budget.**

These are challenging times for schools. While the Government have not reduced the amount of money we receive, they are not giving us any more, while many of our costs continue to increase. We have done a significant amount of work to ensure that the school budget remains under control while also meeting the needs of the children in the school.

#### **New National Curriculum and Assessment.**

The Government introduced a very different (and much more demanding) new National Curriculum. They also removed the system of 'levels' that had previously been used for assessing pupils' achievement and progress. The Governors have spent significant time monitoring the work subject leaders have been doing to bring in the new curriculum and to assess children using the new system.

#### **Singapore Maths**

The school has adopted an approach to the teaching of maths called Singapore Maths. This means that children are exposed to ideas at a **concrete** level with

a range of equipment (e.g. counters, beads) before moving onto **pictorial** representations. This may mean diagrams, sketches or using the Singapore bar model. This develops children's understanding of maths which supports the next move into **abstract** mathematics, such as long division.

Maths lessons are designed to be interactive with a significant emphasis on children's talk.

### **Music**

In 2016, the Governing Body was asked by the Headteacher to support a music initiative throughout the school, to raise music participation for all children throughout the school. 2017 -18 has seen a dedicated music teacher for Years 1 and 6, an ocarina teacher for Years 2 and 3 and a brass teacher for Years 3, 4 and 5. So far the results are fantastic including a performance by our brass band at the National Youth Brass Band Championships of Great Britain held in Warwick. We are looking forward to watching a range of musical performances in 2018/19.

### **Participation in Sporting Events**

What a successful year the school has had! The school has participated in numerous sporting competitions and we now have a girls and boys football team, girls netball team, girls and boys basketball team and have taken part in swimming, tennis and athletics events.

### **Attendance/Lateness**

The school has worked tirelessly at improving attendance and lateness over this year. We finished the year on 95.1%. A number of families went on holiday at the end of the term which impacted on our attendance. We need to improve our attendance figures further, to at least 96.5% and we hope all parents will support us in doing so.

### **Conclusion**

We hope this brief statement has been useful and has given you a flavour of what we as governors do to support the progress of pupils at Marriott Primary. Any comments would be gratefully received. As ever, please pass any messages to me via the school office.

Julie Maxwell

Chair of Governors

August 2018