



## Governors Annual Report to Parents 2019-20

**"To be the best we can be"**

The Governing Body is made up of a group of people who have a variety of skills and experience. The team work effectively to support our school and community, to communicate the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school and develop a culture of ambition for pupils, parents/carers, staff and themselves. As a school we are keen to welcome new Governors who feel they have the skills and enthusiasm to help develop our youngsters.

In 2019 the Governing Body were pleased to welcome a new parent governor: -

"I became a parent governor July 2019; I adopted this role because I felt that I could give my views as a parent on new initiatives within school therefore providing a vital outside of school perspective. At first, I was nervous and apprehensive, although I was immediately put at ease with the welcome I received from all of the governors at my first meeting. I am now much more confident so that I can now speak on behalf of parents at William Reynolds Primary School and I am confident enough to bring up issues that might be raised." Rachel Nash, Parent governor

Following the Government's announcement of all school closures in March 2020, the summer term of has been a particularly unusual and difficult time for us as a school as well as for the country as a whole. The school continued to be open for vulnerable children and the children of Key workers. The school also acted as a hub to provide free school meals to those children in the area that were entitled. Teachers provided a comprehensive scheme of home learning and systems for keeping in touch with pupils who were not in school.



Although the Governing Body have not be able to meet in person, we have continued to support and challenge the Head Teacher and staff, ensuring the health, well-being and safety of everyone.

The Governing Body has three core functions:

- **Setting the strategic direction of the school.**

Much of this year we have been focussed on dealing with raft challenges brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic. These included school closures, keyworker and vulnerable children taught provision, home learning and school re-opening. The pandemic and its impacts have caused a refocussing on different targets and priorities during the year. Some progress was made towards the pre-Covid school development plan but some areas will need to continue into 2020-21.

Governors regularly check that all statutory policies are in place and on the school website so that they are accessible for parents/carers, external agencies and other stakeholders. A number of policies relating to health and safety, staffing, finance and the curriculum have been reviewed this year. A clear action plan for Governors to fulfil this role is in place and is reviewed on an annual basis.

Governors recognise the fabulous attainment and achievement of the pupils of William Reynolds in terms of their progress and attainment data in comparison with national averages and appreciate the hard work and commitment of staff and parents in supporting their children's learning. Our pupils also overcome a range of obstacles in order to achieve beyond the classroom.

"The children clearly have grown in confidence and showmanship and this is because of our incredible staff and SLT encouraging every child to be themselves and recognising each individual's needs and strengths." Heidi Jones after attending Poptastic performed by Year 5 at Abraham Darby School July 2019

- **Holding the school to account.**

At William Reynolds Primary School and Nursery there is a clear vision statement against which all targets and actions are assessed.

Pupil safety, welfare and learning are at the forefront of all our decision-making. You can find our school vision statement in the School Prospectus and on the school website. It is also on display in every classroom.

Governors support and challenge the decisions made about your child's education. We monitor school improvement through regular visits into school to meet with school leaders, attend effective training, review whole school policies, check school appraisal systems, observe pupils' attitude to learning, and seek the views of parents, staff and children through interviews and

questionnaires. We feel that there is a "team" ethos that is the key to the successful learning for all our children.

Governors regularly review safeguarding procedures and policies are in place and being adhered to.

This year it has been very important to ensure that procedures and systems are in place to protect pupils, staff and visitors (including parents and carers) against the transmission of Covid 19. Governors have supported school to ensure that the school was safe for those returning following close down.

Governors have checked that risk assessments are in place and have completed an annual Health and Safety audit.

Governors check that all adults, including volunteers, coaches and Governors have an up to date enhanced DBS check.

- **Ensuring the financial wellbeing of the school.**

Governors have ensured that the budget reflects the priorities of the School Development Plan for the year ahead. Governors have also checked the impact of specific funding on children's achievements.

#### *Pupil Premium Grant*

Governors use the Pupil Premium Grant to contribute to the development of an exciting and rich curriculum that engages and motivates the children, both inside the classroom and outdoors, during and after the school day and through visits and inviting external visitors /artists in residence to the school. The grant is used to top up short falls from parent voluntary contributions to ensure that any planned visits and events still go ahead.

#### *Sports Grant*

The impact from the use of the Sports Grant showed that there was an improved selection of after school sport clubs and that these were well attended. More children have been engaged in interschool competitions during the Autumn and early Spring Term.



Governor Josie Vaughan: - "I had the pleasure of running an after school gymnastic club during the autumn term. From these children, a small group, along with Mr Tagg attended a gymnastic competition in November. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for myself and the children. "

The action plans for the Pupil Premium and Sports Grant are available on the website.

The Governing Body has worked with the Head Teacher to check that the school premises are safe, kept in good repair and offer an exciting, vibrant environment.

This year

- The School was repainted and all carpets were deep cleaned
- The adventure playgrounds were reinstated with a variety of new equipment to enhance pupils' health and well being
- We have continued to develop outdoor learning areas
- The Key Stage 2 Playground was tarmacked



To find out more about the role of the *Governors* and who we are please visit our school website. There you will find a short pen portrait for each member of the *Governing Body*. You will find us at [williamreynoldsprimary.org](http://williamreynoldsprimary.org)

"As always, we look forward to another busy year in 2020-21 and we will continue to work hard to ensure that the "teaching, learning and assessment" and the safety of your children is central in all that we do".

Jane Tranter (Chair of Governors 2019-20)