

# MALVERN WAY INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

## ANNUAL GOVERNOR UPDATE

JULY 2015

As we come to the end of the academic year and are about to start the summer break it seems an appropriate point to reflect on the challenges and achievements that we have faced over the past year. The governors have made some significant changes to our constitution and make up this year; we have continued to work closely with the School, under Mrs Cole's leadership, and feel that our school has gone from strength to strength. We would like to reflect on a few other areas that we have focused on and outline the work that we have done this year.

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### *Reconstitution of the Governing Body*

Following recent legislative changes, all governing bodies were required to review their constitution or structure. We started by analysing our collective skills to identify our strengths and identify gaps and then looked at how we should be structured to meet both our needs as well as meeting the requirements of the legislation. We reorganised, created some new roles and sought some new governors. The Governing Body is now made up of the following members:

- Local Authority Governor: Sue Bussey
- Parent Governors: Nevin Bhandari, Charlotte Eastman and Susan Hughes
- Co-opted governors: Tim Craig, Hazel Hall, Abby Hickling, Alistair Imrie and Ann Palmer
- Staff Governor: Ben Reid
- Head Teacher: Emma Cole
- Associate Members: Holly Butcher and Melanie Numan.

Chairs of Governors: Abby Hickling and Susan Hughes

Chair of the Resources and Pay Committees: Charlotte Eastman

Chair of the Curriculum Committee: Susan Hughes

Each governor has agreed to take on a personal link to key areas within the School, these include: English, Maths, ICT, Developing Subjects, Safeguarding, Inclusions, Equality, Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) etc. We meet up with our link members of staff on a regular basis to discuss pupil progress, teaching and the subject evaluation forms and targets within these areas.

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## Resources Committee Update *from Charlotte Eastman*

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The role of the Resources Committee is to ensure that the School, which ultimately is a business, provides the best service possible to our local families. In order to do this, the Resources Committee meet regularly with the Head to set and review many things such as the strategy/development plan, finances/staff structure and policy frameworks of the School.

I am really pleased to confirm that from a resourcing point of view, the school continues to meet its outstanding grade. We have been most impressed by the way that Mrs Cole has developed so quickly into her new role.

Some of the regular areas of focus recently have been around the building itself and how we can find better ways of keeping the costs down as to ensure as much money as possible is spent on our children. Constant updating has been going on behind the scenes, the most obvious being the new Year 2 outbuildings, which have been long overdue but well worth the wait. Most policies have been reviewed over the last year and a new appraisal and pay banding system have come into place. Our biggest focus with the Head has been around Safeguarding and E-safety, as legislation and guidelines are constantly changing, therefore this area needs continuous focus.

As part of Mrs Cole's aim to develop our links with other schools our Year 2s have enjoyed spending a lot of time with the new teachers and peers at Little Green, helping to facilitate a smooth transition. For parents/carers with children at both schools, the Heads' coordination on term times and INSET days was also appreciated.

### Our Aims and Targets:

The governors have monitored and supported the School's progress towards our targets over the course of the year, which include the following:

- Ensuring that we are budgeting and managing our ICT resources and keeping up to date with the changing Computing Curriculum to support the School's aim to ensure that the new curriculum will be broad, balanced, innovative, creative and enhanced by new technology. There is keen focus on E-safety and Safeguarding children whilst embracing technology in teaching and the curriculum.
- Governors and the School have been keen to develop links with key partners. The governors have sought to increase their engagement at our School, for example the Head and Chair of Governors meet on a regular basis, governors attend feedback sessions following our School Improvement Partner's termly visits and the committees meet at least termly. We have also strengthened links with Little Green meeting termly with their Chair and Vice Chair of Governors as well as Mrs Tearle the Head.
- Governors have supported the School's aim to develop use of the outside areas to enhance learning, both in what is provided and how it is used. We have a wonderful site with a diverse environment which children regularly explore linked to a variety of topics.
- We have supported Mrs Cole's work on reviewing our School's vision.
- We have worked with the School as both the National Curriculum has changed and as national assessment levels have been phased out. The new systems that are in place support both our needs as a school, for example linking to a topic based curriculum, but also link in with our wider Hertfordshire community. Staff have been involved in discussions on these issues from an early stage and are trained on the new systems.

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## Curriculum Committee Update *from Susan Hughes*

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The Curriculum Committee meets separately from the Full Governing Body and we are made up of a smaller quorum focusing only on curriculum matters. This year we have focused on issues such as the School Development Plan, various policies including Special Educational Needs and Disability and we are going to start looking at a new school prospectus tying this in with the revamped website.

One of the bigger areas of interest to parents no doubt is the School Development Plan (SDP). At the start of the academic year the priority action plan is updated and targets are set. If these targets are not met then we will question why not.

Progress towards meeting our targets is monitored and we self-evaluate. I am very pleased to report that the school continues to self-assess as 'outstanding', which is supported by our external educational advisor. This includes quality of teaching, behaviour and safety, leadership and management and overall effectiveness. We are also pleased to note that pupils' attendance remains good, currently 96.5%, which is fantastic for the School and of course the pupils. This key issue will continue to be an area of focus.

One of the policies that was updated was the 'Teaching and Learning' Policy. In a nutshell this document lists its Aims and Objectives and has clearly outlined not only what effective teaching and learning should look like, but also effective learners. We will continue to monitor how national curriculum changes continue to affect our School and our pupils.

### **Governor Day!**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June the governors spent the whole day in School for our first governor day. This was a huge success although some children seem to have later reported that the government came to visit!

We started the morning attending a whole staff breakfast and then joined parents for the 'book look'. We were delighted that so many of you managed to come and visit us afterwards for coffee and a chat and were interested to hear your views and concerns. We then spent the morning on 'learning walks' around the School led by Mrs Cole and Mrs Butcher. This gave us a chance to monitor and see in action some of the issues that we have discussed over the year, such as resources being utilised, changes that have been made to the outside learning areas, pupil behaviour, implementation of new areas of the curriculum and watch some of our outstanding teaching and learning. We joined the children for lunch in the dinner hall and met with the School Council and Eco Council.

We were struck by the huge amount of learning happening continually in ways that were exciting for the children and by the positive attitude and respectful behaviour of children. We had a useful update from Mrs Young on changes to Special Educational Needs and Disability nationally and within the School and attended a lovely badges assembly. Thank you to all of the staff for allowing us to share in this day and to the children for being so welcoming.

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And finally....we would like to congratulate Mrs Cole on a very successful first year and the rest of the staff team for their hard work and dedication in continuing to make our School a wonderful place for our children to receive a stimulating, enriching and outstanding education. I would also like to thank your children who make it a special place. Have a great summer break.

***We hope this letter will provide some insight into the role of governors at our school. If you have any comments or concerns please do not hesitate in writing to the governors, c/o the School Office.***