

George Spicer Primary School

Governors' annual report to Parents/Carers 2022-2023

The governing body at George Spicer Primary School is made up of a group of people who have a variety of skills and experience. We work effectively as a team to support our school and community, to communicate the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school. As governors, we have a strategic role; we are not involved in the day to day running of the school.

From September 2022, governors decided to adopt a hybrid system for governing body meetings, as on-line meetings had worked well during Covid. From September, the 3 Resource Committee meetings (monitoring the budget, staffing, health and safety and premises) were on- line, whilst the 3 Curriculum Committee meetings (curriculum, teaching, assessments, children's progress and standards) and Full Governing Body meetings, continued face to face in school.

Governors' visits began in the Autumn Term focussed on the main points outlined in the School Improvement Plan. We monitored the introduction and implementation of the Nelson Handwriting and Spelling schemes, visited the Early Years provision, observed PE provision and visited classes during reading and writing lessons. Governors with individual responsibilities such as Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium, Safeguarding, Finance and EYFS also visited staff to monitor provision, discuss any developments and issues and ensure statutory requirements were met. The Co-Chairs met half termly with Mr Spong.

The governors' OFSTED action plan was completed early in the Autumn Term, which was just as well as OFSTED made their visit in February and met with a group of governors. The school achieved an excellent OFSTED report where the hard work of pupils and staff was recognized; the suggested areas for improvement had already been identified by Mr. Spong and the Leadership team and included in the School Improvement Plan. Whilst an OFSTED report can only capture a fraction of the work of a school, we felt the inspectors identified the strengths and positive culture in the school accurately.

Governors sat on the interview panel for the Assistant Head posts this year, visited well-being weeks, spoke to the PE lead and History lead and observed several interventions for pupils with Special Needs.

Once again, outcomes at the end of the year were excellent across the year groups, Year 6 pulling out all the stops with some of the best results for years. The staff have worked hard to make up for any learning gaps during covid, whilst aiming to provide a broad based and ambitious curriculum.

At the end of the Summer Term, we said goodbye to Jo Brinklow (co-opted governor) and John Roberts (staff governor), thanking them for their contributions during their time on the board. We welcomed 3 new governors this year, Claudette Stapleton, (Local Authority governor), Edith Udemezue and Zoya Ahmed (both co-opted governors) who have all brought different experiences and skills to our board.

Schools (and parents) have had to adapt to a series of changes and challenges in recent years and we thank our dedicated staff and supportive parents for managing this so well, sometimes in very difficult circumstances.

We look forward to working with staff and parents again this year, enabling the children to have the best experiences possible and continuing to take George Spicer Primary School to even greater success.