

George Spicer Primary School

Governors' Annual Report to Parents /Carers 2021-2022

The governing body at George Spicer 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 2021, after the disruption caused by covid, governors started to return to a “nearly normal” school year as school visits began once again. All governing body meetings were held as usual, beginning on-line, and returning to face -to -face by July 2022. We held 3 Resource meetings (monitoring the budget, staffing, health and safety and premises), 3 Curriculum and Achievement meetings (looking at the curriculum, teaching, assessments, children’s progress and standards) and 4 Full governing body meetings where the work of both committees was brought together. All meetings were well attended by governors and staff alike.

Governors with particular responsibilities for Special Needs, safeguarding, Pupil Premium, finance, well-being, health and safety and EYFS met with the school staff responsible for these areas for updates, and to see how work in these areas was progressing. A large part of the governors’ role involves working co-operatively with Mr Spong and senior leaders in monitoring the School Improvement Plan. The SIP is based on priorities identified from data, OFSTED priorities and self -evaluation for 2021-2022, this focussed on maths, writing, special needs, behaviour, Pupil Premium, the curriculum and well-being.

Governors also attended the opening of the Nurture Intervention, The Equality and Diversity group meetings, well-being weeks, staff interviews, meetings with the Headteacher, phonics lessons, PHSE and well-being sessions and a number of maths and writing lessons. We held meetings with the Geography and Maths leaders and spoke to groups of children and staff about their well-being and mental health. Governors also discussed the results of the parents’ survey and staff survey.

At the end of this academic year 2021-2022, our Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 pupils performed better than when compared to national or local data. This was an excellent achievement and demonstrates the dedication of the staff and resilience of the children as they emerged from the restrictions posed by covid.

The end of the academic year also saw Phil Page stepping down as Chair of Governors after many years as a governor. Phil was a great support to the Head and senior teachers and heavily involved in the build and development of the Kimberley Gardens site. We thank him for the years of service he gave to the school. Anne Del Greco and Deborah Dykins were appointed as Co -chairs to serve from September 1st 2022-2023. As a school, we are keen to welcome new Governors who feel they have the skills and enthusiasm to help develop our children and school. The school will notify parents when there is a vacancy for a parent governor.

For 2022-2023, governors will continue to meet regularly and visit the school. We shall monitor this year’s School Improvement Plan priorities as well as carrying out our individual roles across subject areas and more general aspects e.g SEN and Pupil Premium. Our visits timetable is based mainly on the School Improvement Plan priorities and our individual roles.

Our overall role as “critical friend” asks us to both challenge and support the Head and senior leaders as we all work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children.