

Welcome to the Annual Statement of Governance from the Governors of Kings Worthy Primary School for the academic year 2018-2019. Its purpose is to share key aspects we have been working on as a Governing Body this year and our areas of focus going forward.

The governing body has a legal responsibility which can be summarised by three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

We welcomed Jamie Dodson to Kings Worthy in September 2018 as our new Headteacher. He has spent this year not only getting to know children, staff, parents and governors but has also enabled some significant improvements to be made to the school, including the development of the new outdoor classroom in the Woodland Walk and the new smartboards in all of the classrooms. Fundamental to the future success of our pupils he has built a strong Senior Leadership Team.

Governors have conducted a Parent Survey this year, the results of which were discussed by the Governing Body and fed back to parents. In summary parents are broadly happy with Kings Worthy Primary School and see some opportunities for improvement. Some of the suggestions had already been identified and addressed by the school. Others will feed into ongoing discussions around school improvement.

With a strong, stable Senior Leadership Team in place, governors and Mr Dodson think that the time is now right to refresh the school's vision and strategy. An update will be provided during the Autumn term.

Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff

The Standards & Improvements committee, chaired by Lorraine Suchanek, is responsible for holding the school to account over educational performance. The feedback from our most recent Ofsted report in February 2017 said our next steps should be to ensure that:

- the most able mathematicians in key stage 1 progress quickly to work at a greater depth of understanding, fluency and recall
- the most able disadvantaged pupils progress rapidly from their starting points, so that more of them reach the highest standards in reading and mathematics.

This means that the school needs to ensure that children capable of doing better should get the support that they need to achieve their potential: in particular children in years 1 and 2 in maths, and disadvantaged children across the school in reading and maths.

Governors meet regularly with staff who provide updates on subjects and year groups, and answer lots of questions. The transition to a new leadership team can take some adjustment, and Governors thank all staff for their hard work, professionalism and enthusiasm this year.

Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Ensuring that the school's budget is sound continues to be a challenge. The school receives its funding from several sources: most important is our Budget Share – this is the money that we get from Hampshire County Council. It is calculated per pupil and we are in the fortunate position of being just about full.

Additional sources of school funding include Pupil Premium: one group eligible are children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits. The funding is spent on improving the provision for that child. The school used to be able to identify pupils qualifying for Pupil Premium funding if the parents applied for Free School Meals, but now that every child in Early Years and Key Stage 1 has a free school meal this funding is more tricky to come by. If you think that you might qualify, please come to the school office where this can be checked for you.

As well as government funding, schools now must be more creative in finding ways to finance the level of education that we aspire to for our pupils. The school has been in the capable hands of Mrs Paul for some years now, and her diligent management of our finances – overseen by governors in the Resources committee, chaired by Stephen Benwell – has meant that the school is able to do most of what we would like. Mr Dodson has brought new energy to our income and has found additional funding streams to support larger projects.

Future plans for the Governing Body

As we move into another academic year, governors are mindful that we need to look ahead – not just a year or two into the future, but some years away. What is it that makes our community, our school and our children special? What would we gift them if we could?

Our governing body is currently a good mix of experienced governors and those that bring fresh eyes to our school. Governors are committed to providing strong support and challenge to the school for the benefit of all of our pupils. We are looking at refining our ways of working to ensure that we are doing the best job that we can.

How to contact us

We welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and all other local stakeholders. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Claire Welland, via the school office.

Claire Welland, Chair of Governors on behalf of the Kings Worthy Primary School Governing Body