



Governor's Annual Report to Parents
2015 to 2016

'Governors know the school well and support and challenge leaders effectively. They are valuable partners in the drive to secure and sustain improvements in teaching and pupils' outcomes.' (Ofsted 2015)

We are fortunate to have a Governing Body with a good breadth of skills and experience, who support our school community. The Governing Body carry out a wide range of responsibilities for the benefit of our children, parents/carers and staff. The role of the governing body has 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
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent (DfE 2014)

A key role for the team is to ensure that the children at Sheriff Hutton progress appropriately in their education and we appreciate that for this to happen, the children must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff all working together within a safe and supportive learning environment.

Last year in 2015, we had an Ofsted inspection and were pleased with the outcome that the school were graded as 'good', reflecting the progress made by the school from the previous inspection. As Governors we continue to work hard to ensure the school sustains and continues this improvement. We appreciate too that parents and carers need to be satisfied about the overall leadership and management of the school to ensure their children feel safe and make good progress whilst enjoying their learning.

To achieve our objectives, Governors too must continually evaluate the role we play within the life of the school and publish relevant information to all interested parties. This statement and report are part of that evaluation and publication process.

Who are we?

HEAD TEACHER: Bev Stell

PARENT GOVERNORS: Duncan Noble, Andrea Pitman, Julie Brownbridge, Crispin Thorn, Catherine Butt

LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR: Pat Southgate

STAFF GOVERNOR: Jon Fewlass

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS: Alan Glover (Chair), Margaret Fisher (Vice Chair), Terry Fisher, Tessa Vass, Helen Hendry

We meet six times a year as a Full Governing Body and each of the four sub committees also meet regularly. In her role as head teacher, Mrs Stell, attends all of these meetings.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (Terry Fisher, Julie Brownbridge, Catherine Butt.....)

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Duncan Noble, Crispin Thorn, Alan Glover)

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (Crispin Thorn, Pat Southgate, Helen Hendry)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (Margaret Fisher, Terry Fisher, Andrea Pitman, Tessa Vass)



What have been our successes this year?

- Introduction of the new National Curriculum and assessment frameworks.
- Completion of the new windows and some internal / external decoration.
- All teaching across the school is at least good.

How did the Governors help the school to achieve this?

Sheriff Hutton Governors have an ambition for school improvement and challenge the school to achievement the best outcomes for the children's learning, whilst keeping their safety and welfare at the forefront of all our decision making. Governors support and challenge the decisions made about the children's education. We monitor school improvement through regular visits to undertake learning walks and meet with school leaders, we attend training, observe children's attitudes to learning and monitor children's achievement through scrutiny of progress reports from school leaders.

The local Authority supports governors by offering a range of courses and through school improvement support at termly meetings with the chair of Governors and school leaders. This academic year, Governors have received training in a range of subject including

- Safeguarding
- The role of Heads, Chairs and Clerks
- Termly Heads and Chairs conferences to provide updates on recent government and local policy and initiatives

The three main roles for Governors

1) Setting the strategic direction

Governors work with the school to review and scrutinise new school policies in line with statutory requirements. Governors have set themselves and the School the goal of achieving an Outstanding grading from OFSTED. The School Development plan and personal goals/objectives for the Headteacher and Staff are directly linked to this.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP) - Governors work co-operatively with the head teacher and senior management in the writing and monitoring the School Improvement Plan. The School Development Plan sets targets for the forthcoming year. The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SDP is set out with clear targets, the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these targets and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SDP is monitored and reviewed six times a year at each Full Governing Body meeting, with an evaluation overview being completed by the head teacher and presented to governors at the end of each academic year. The 2016/17 targets of the School Development

Plan are:

- ★ Improve the standards in grammar, punctuation and spelling so that all children achieve the expected standard, including phonics at KS1.
- ★ Raise further the number of pupils achieving the higher outcomes in mathematics at KS1 and 2.
- ★ Embed a consistent and manageable method of assessment across the school.
- ★ Raise the proportion of children in the early years making more than expected progress, particularly in their communication and language skills.



The impact of this work has been that by the end of the EYFS and Key Stage 2 (July 2016), children are working broadly in line with national expectations. Attainment at the school continues to improve and it is very pleasing that this year at least 44% of Year 6 children are working at greater depth in reading.

The Governing Body will continue in its drive to raise standards by setting challenging targets for improvement. Clear targets are set for the head teacher, and in turn for the staff. Targets relate to the children's progress, the school development plan and as well as leadership of curriculum subjects.

2) Holding the head teacher to account

Sheriff Hutton Governors 'support and challenge the school in equal measure. They know the school well, its strengths and areas that require improvement. They have a particularly good understanding of the quality of teaching, pupils' achievement and the work done by school leaders, including in managing the performance of staff.' (Ofsted 2015).

Governors monitor school progress and improvement through termly headteacher's reports, data scrutiny and school visits. School leadership continues to be good. Governors know what the school does well and we help school leaders to identify areas for improvement.

The Governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP and of specific issues. These visits are considered a valuable opportunity for Governors to be able to work closely with staff members across the school. This year, Governors have undertaken learning walks to and have met with staff on an individual basis to discuss school priorities.

Data is made available to Governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the head teacher and members of the senior management team thus the governors are able to benchmark their data against similar schools, the Local Authority and schools nationally to ensure the schools standards and expectations are high and are able to be closely scrutinised. This year teachers with subject leadership responsibility for maths and English have also reported termly to the Governing body on children's progress and attainment. Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium (a grant to support children in receipt for free school meals, children in care and Forces children).

A team of Governors meet with the head teacher and a local authority advisor to undertake head teacher appraisal, reviewing and setting rigorous targets. The Governors monitor the staff appraisal process and performance related pay to ensure that similar rigorous targets are in place and that staff are held to account.

3) Overseeing financial performance

Key members of the governing body have been trained in School Finance management and have worked with school staff to achieve The Schools Financial Value Standard accreditation.

Governors meet regularly with the headteacher to set and monitor the school budget to ensure best value for money and that money is spent well. The closing of accounts was agreed at the end of the financial year 2015/2016 and a new budget was set for the year ahead. Governors ensured that the budget reflects the priorities of the school development plan for the year ahead and check the impact of specific funding on children's attainment and achievements.



Future and Continuous improvement

- The school is working closely with other local schools and has formed a close working 'cluster' with Easingwold Area Partnership. This provides opportunities for school improvement through reciprocal support, evaluation, moderation and shared training. As Governors, we are also keen to engage with governors of other schools in the cluster to exchange ideas and benchmark progress and performance.
- The Governing Body continues to encourage and widen opportunities for our all staff, in conjunction with the headteacher, by continuing our commitment to an association with the North Star Teaching Alliance. The Alliance is a partnership of approximately sixty schools that work collaboratively and offer bespoke training and continued professional development to all members.
- Governors will work to continue to enhance the school site.
- In line with the Ofsted Inspection framework, Governors will continue to develop our own strategic planning in line with requirements in our ambition to become an 'Outstanding' school.
- We will also seek to recruit two parent governors. Further information will be provided shortly in relation to these posts.

As a Governing Body we would like to thank all parents for the very generous contributions that are made through various fundraising events during the year. This has allowed the school to purchase a number of valuable resources; for example: new laptops and iPads, improved outdoor facilities for Bulmer and Neville classes and more playtime equipment. It funded a range of educational visits and visitors including a trip to the Sealife Sanctuary. The Governing Body are really grateful to those who to those who put the time and the tremendous efforts in making these opportunities happen.

The Governing Body and Senior Management Team are constantly striving to improve and develop the school and we look forward to another busy year and we will continue to work hard to ensure that the teaching and learning and safety of your children is central in all that we do.

Margaret Fisher
Vice Chair of Sheriff Hutton Governing Body