

Monkfrith Governing Body Annual Statement 2016

Overview from Jan-Dec 2016

This year, governors have agreed and reviewed a number of policies and procedures to be adopted by the School. Governors have a thorough understanding of how the school uses its resources including the effective use and impact of pupil premium funding. Through analysis of the school data they understand how well Monkfrith's pupils perform compared with pupils nationally.

Governors introduced a corporate risk register to try to identify and mitigate against areas of risk more effectively. The governing body identified that training, succession planning and knowledge of national governance developments were priorities for development over the year.

A new Chair and Vice Chair were appointed at the end of 2015 and commenced their roles this year. New Committee Chairs were also appointed for the 2017 period. A new parent governor joined the governing body.

Resources Committee

The school expansion has been a central theme for the resources committee. In May the building work commenced and governors have met with the project team and contractor monthly throughout the year. The building work was split into two phases with a phase 1 completion date of August 2016. Governors considered ways to minimise disruption to children and parents and ensured that the new reception and KS1 classrooms were ready in time for the new intake of children. Since September, governors have continued to monitor the building work, communicate with residents and the school community about progress and ensure phase 2 commences smoothly.

Governors have considered the H&S, safeguarding and operational challenges of the project. Two school based governors jointly took on the role of H&S governors this year so they could monitor and report back any H&S issues.

A governor conducted the annual health and safety walk around the premises to ensure the school is well maintained and safe for all pupils. This year governors have been monitoring action points arising from the bi-annual health and safety audit. All urgent issues have been addressed and the school is addressing the final actions.

The resources committee also discussed new ICT requirements and developed an ICT strategy to support the needs of the school going forward. Governors considered different technology hardware options and procurement models. As part of expansion the school received a budget of £70k to spend on ICT. An ICT working party was set up to consider the different technology hardware options and procurement models. Governors and teachers visited other schools and attended ICT conferences to get a better understanding of what might be useful. A selection of tablets and chromebooks were trailed and although no large scale purchases have been made yet the school has decided on which Chromebooks and tablets they will be investing in.

New internal and external resources have been discussed and purchased for reception. New playground equipment has been discussed and ordered for new KS1 and KS2 play areas.

School security has been reviewed and new systems are required and are being considered.

Governors were involved with the appointment of new teachers during the year. They have reviewed staff training and professional development opportunities for the year. Governors have been overseeing the introduction of Unified Reward for non-teaching members of staff.

Pupil Progress and Welfare (PPW) Committee

Ensuring that all of Monkfrith's groups of learners are making good progress and have good outcomes is a key priority for the governing body. This year the PPW committee has monitored progress for our SEN and pupil premium groups of learners as well as looking at overall progress and attainment across the school. We have analysed progress and attainment data for all year groups and discussed trends. In the autumn term an attainment review was carried out by an external school partner with the head, deputy and the chair of governors. The review concluded that all groups of learners made good progress at Monkfrith and that overall progress and attainment were significantly above the national average in many areas. The attainment review concluded that the school was outstanding.

This year new more challenging national tests were introduced for end of KS1 and KS2. Governors challenged school leaders to demonstrate that they were teaching at an appropriate level to achieve good results. The PPW committee is satisfied that our system of assessment is rigorous and robust and that it helps teachers move all groups of learners on. The strong 2016 end of year results for phonics, KS1 and KS2 tests reflected the fact that good teaching and assessment practices were in place.

Governors have a good understanding of the systems in place to enable children to make good or better than expected progress in their learning. We will continue to monitor progress of all groups of learners including pupil premium and children with SEN over the next year.

The head teacher shares key performance data with governors every term. This year governors have had the opportunity to evaluate and discuss data on EYFS, Phonics, KS1 and KS2 test results.

As part of our annual cycle of self-assessment and continuous improvement the school produces a school improvement plan with key action points for the year. It is the governing body's responsibility to monitor progress towards implementation of these action points. All governors are responsible for overseeing a particular area in the school and visit the school to talk to teachers and to see find out how the school operates. This year governors have visited the school. Governors have met with curriculum leaders to find out how core subjects like maths and literacy are being taught and have met with the EYFS team to gain a deep understanding of early years provisioning at Monkfrith and to monitor children's progress. The SEN governor has also met with the SENCo to discuss how children with learning difficulties are supported and to find out more about the different interventions that are provided at Monkfrith. Over the year Governors are invited to drop in to classes and join whole school events. There have been several class visits this year.

Governors have frank discussions with staff members about new opportunities, challenges and improvements that could be made so the school is continuously improving. In the summer term governors who were responsible for monitoring key areas reported back to the rest of the governing body.

The Governing Body has monitored the School Improvement Plan. This has been achieved through discussion and questioning of the Headteacher's report and by governors' first hand observations in the school.

Governors reviewed and discussed the updated SEN Policy and new SEN information report.

Improving attendance was a priority for the school and a focus for the PPW committee. Attendance data was discussed and approaches to tackling persistent absenteeism discussed and monitored.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee discussed the budget and during the year were able to question how spending aligns with the budget, thus ensuring solvency and probity thereby ensuring financial resources were used effectively. The Committee has monitored how the Pupil Premium grant and the Schools Sports funding have been used and their impact. The finance committee has been effective in overseeing arrangements for relating teachers' pay to performance.

Two governors and the School Improvement Partner met during 2016 to review the Headteacher's performance in meeting objectives set. They made recommendation on pay and agreed objectives for the next year.

The pay committee also met to review and agree performance related pay recommendations for staff.