



# Governing Body Newsletter

July 2017

The purpose of this newsletter is to give an overview of the work of the governing body over the last year and what it currently sees as the key challenges for the year ahead.

The school Governors are listed on the school website and can be contacted in person or via email [Chair@yorkley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:Chair@yorkley.gloucs.sch.uk) feedback welcome!

Welcome to our first Yorkley School Governing Body (GB) newsletter!



You can be forgiven for not knowing much about Governing bodies as they are not particularly visible in the daily life of schools. Governing bodies are responsible for the overall management of Schools and here at Yorkley the Governing body is made of 11 individuals including some members of staff.

**Ofsted** - The Governors were delighted that the school was awarded a 'Good' judgement overall. The Inspector commented:

*"Leaders' and governors' relentless ambition to eradicate underperformance is translated into action and this means the school continues to improve."*

*They [Governors] have a clear view of the quality of teaching and how the performance of staff is managed to reward effective practise. Governors' minutes show how governors challenge leaders to ensure that disadvantaged pupils and those who have special educational needs and / or disabilities are supported to achieve."*

**Sats (2016)**- Yorkley School met Floor Targets, in fact in Writing, Reading and Maths the school Progress score was above the National Targets.

**Sports** – Yorkley was awarded the School Games Silver Award in recognition of its sporting success and has been shortlisted for the National Sports Project Award.

**Marjory Boxall Quality Mark** - Yorkley was the first school in Gloucestershire to be awarded the Boxall award for Nurture, recognising how the school implements programmes to support and develop all its pupils.

It has been a 'Good' year, well actually it has been a *Great* year at Yorkley School; as the above illustrates from the Ofsted inspection to our sporting achievements to the Boxall award and the many other successful activities throughout the school year.

We look forward to another busy year and will continue to support the staff to ensure the teaching, learning and safety of your children is central in all we do.

*Peter Taylor* Chair of Governors

## The year ahead

Key areas of work for the GB in the year ahead.

### Finance

The school has set a balanced budget for the year ahead. Yorkley is no different to most other schools in that funding is tight. We have had to make difficult decisions to reduce funding in some areas to focus on priority areas. The challenges do not end there our outlook is that over the next three years funding for schools will remain tight. This will lead to most schools having to make further difficult decisions.

### Early Years provision

The Ofsted inspection provided some good focus in the schools early years' provision. The school's teaching staff have identified a number of new activities that will continue to be implemented over the coming year. The GB will continue to be involved in monitoring the outcomes across the school but with some additional focus and support in early years' provision.

### Attendance

One of the ways the school is judged by government is through pupil attendance and Yorkley school is not meeting the national target. Schools can't be considered 'outstanding' by Ofsted if they don't have good attendance. Pupils missing days disrupt their learning and as a GB we will be supporting the Head Teacher and school staff in raising attendance levels. If we look at all the school's achievements in the past year, just imagine what could be achieved if attendance is higher!

### Staff development

As we say goodbye to Mr Clarke and welcome Mr Berry the GB will be supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to demonstrate learning from others and peer challenge to standards, development and progress.

### Policies

The GB has a rolling programme of reviewing and developing a whole range of school policies from hand writing to educational visits. Staff and Governors will continue this work through the year ensuring that we are continuing to improve on our approach and management.

We can't list all the GB's work over the last year but below are some of the key areas to give you a flavour.

### **Governor Vacancy**

There are 11 places on the Yorkley school Governing Body. These include the Head Teacher, staff representatives, parents and other individuals who work voluntarily as a team to support and provide strategic direction for the school. There is currently a Governor vacancy which has been advertised through the school newsletter during the year. The GB tries to get a broad balance of experience and skills, so if you're interested (or know someone who might be) in supporting a whole school development approach, why not find out more. Contact any of the governors, school office or [Chair@yorkley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:Chair@yorkley.gloucs.sch.uk) to find out more. We would be particularly interested to hear from someone with skills in the areas of marketing, promotion or finance.

### **Buildings**

Successful bids to Gloucestershire County Council have been made to secure 75% funding towards repairs to the library roof and a second school heating boiler. The remaining 25% comes from school funds. Works will take place this summer. These works should reduce the likelihood of school closure due to loss of heating or unusable spaces. Classroom three has been decorated and plans are being developed to improve the schools conservation area.



Boxall Award Presentation

### **Staff Management**

The school employs in the region of 30 staff on full & part time basis. Throughout the year the GB ensures the school makes good use of its staff, they are supported, they understand what is expected of them and the priorities of the school.

### **Governor Visits**

Through the year individual governors have made monitoring visits with subject leaders and/or gone into lessons to see how the school goes about delivering the curriculum. Monitoring visits in the last year have included Maths, Computing, PE, Special Educational Needs, Science, English, French and Art.

### **Curriculum and Standards**

A group of governors (the Curriculum and Standards Committee) meet to review the progress of pupils across the school. They examine the evidence behind assessments and challenge the reasoning and judgements made. They look to support improvements in educational standards across the school. They have reviewed progress of pupils throughout the school. They consider amongst other things, the progress of groups of children as they move through the school, differences in progress between boys and girls and provisions for groups such as those with particular educational needs.

### **Special Educational Needs and Safeguarding**

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken by staff and governors to monitor the progress of pupils with specific requirements and ensure robust management processes are in place where concerns are raised about the welfare of a child.

#### **A very special mention**

Kate Fyffe and Sandra Harris who have given extensive service to the school and its pupils for many years (its most probably impolite to mention how long!) are retiring. Their enthusiasm, passion, commitment and caring has supported generations of Yorkley pupils. On behalf of the Governing Body, staff and pupils past and present, we wish to say our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes for their retirement.

### **The Governing body has three core functions:**

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school;
- Holding leaders (Head Teacher) to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

### **Who are we?**

Head Teacher: Kate Burke; Parent Governors: Caron de Burgh, Antony Dufort; Local Authority Governor: Simon Jewell; Staff Governor: Tracy Wood; Co-opted Governors: Alan Castle, Alastair Chapman, Kim Chester, Peter Taylor (Chair), Chris Wood (Vice-chair).

<http://yorkleyschool.co.uk/about-the-school/school-governors/>