



Governors Report to Parents 2015-16

Tuesday, 5th July 2016

The expectation is that the report will cover the main issues that governing body have been asked to address during the year and also give details of Governors' attendance at meetings. The latter information can be found in -Appendix 1 below.

The Governing body has a strong focus on three core functions:

- a. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- b. Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- c. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Full Governing Body

The full governing body meet three times a year to monitor progress towards achieving the school improvement plan. Paul Williams has worked with Mr Cooke to deliver a strategic three year plan that ensures continued progress in all areas of the school.

Since February we have been focusing on the government's position regarding their desire for all schools to become Academies. Mr Imtiaz Mirza and I attended training for governors in the Longsight and Ardwick partnership of schools about academisation and the implications for Plymouth Grove. We recognise the enormous impact that this could have on the school community and we will continue to explore all the directions that the school can take in order to decide what is best for Plymouth Grove.

We have two committees; the inclusion committee and the finance, staffing and premises committee. These committees meet four times a year to provide greater focus on the core functions of the school.

Inclusion Committee

The inclusion committee are responsible for holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils. During the year Mr Yasser Ishaq stood down as parent governor as his term of office had come to an end. My thanks go to Mr Ishaq for his hard work and support he has given the school. We will now be recruiting a new parent governor.

The quality of teaching, learning and assessment at Plymouth Grove Primary School is an area to which we give a great deal of attention, as I am sure you would expect. During the year at meetings and with our School Improvement Partner(SIP), Brian Holmes, we have considered a vast amount of data and looked at information on how teachers perform and how the school can continue to drive up standards. Mr Imtiaz Mirza attended the meetings

with Brian Holmes to understand the strengths in the school and the areas that can be improved. We were delighted to receive a letter from Nick Gibb, the Minister of State for Schools, congratulating the school on being amongst the 100 top performing schools across the country in terms of the progress pupils make. All the data indicates that Plymouth Grove is a good school with very good pupil progress across all year groups. We recognise that in order to achieve these outcomes for pupils, the quality of teaching is consistently good or better across the school.

This year we have been getting to grips with new systems of assessment and we invited Brian Holmes (SIP) to quality assure the systems Plymouth Grove has put in place. We feel that a great deal of work has been done to develop an effective system for assessing and measuring pupils' progress. The system has been developed to be manageable for teachers, but also to be rigorous, so that up to date information about a pupils' progress can be accessed at any time. Joe Hill visited the school to see the assessment system in practice and to gain feedback on its implementation from the senior management team.

Reading at Plymouth Grove is a real success and we were delighted to receive feedback about children's very positive attitude towards reading. The number of reading 'millionaires' shows the good habits that children have developed and they recognise how important this key skill is to their future.

In addition, the inclusion committee scrutinise how the school ensures the personal development, behaviour and welfare of pupils contributes positively towards learning.

As governors we receive information about behaviour incidents, the type of behaviour, and the time and location these incidents occur. We then scrutinise how the school deals with these incidents and the impact of these actions. We are pleased with the standards of behaviour within lessons and around the school.

We recognise that attendance at school has been below the national average in previous years and this is an area that the school needs to improve as it is vital in order for children to reach their full potential. We are pleased with the progress that we have made this academic year as the school is on track to be above the national average. We appreciate the efforts parents are making to improve attendance at school. Thank you.

We are delighted with the steps the school is taking towards achieving the Unicef Rights Respecting School Award. Lise Hopwood and I have been visiting the school to see the impact of this work. We have been amazed and delighted at the success of the Debate Mate team who are National Champions. What an outstanding achievement.

Lise Hopwood in her role as a teacher training course leader at Manchester University has supported the school in carrying out research on the most effective ways to support children with English as an additional language. These strategies will now be incorporated within the schools' teaching and learning policy.

Finance, Staffing and Premises Committee

The finance, staffing and premises committee oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

This year there has obviously been a great focus on the new school build. Lise Hopwood, Joe Hill and I have toured the new school to check on progress. We are really excited to see the new classrooms and outdoor space that will provide a significantly improved environment for the children in the school. Paul Williams has also attended meetings with the local

authority to explore the options for the existing building. We are really pleased that the ground floor will continue to be used next year by the children in the Sunshine Room.

Performance related pay has been introduced into schools in England and the governors have, over the last year, been ensuring that a fair and appropriate system has been developed at Plymouth Grove that both recognises good performance with the ability to make appropriate rewards and addresses poor performance. The governors look at how the school uses the funds received for children eligible for the pupil premium and the impact of the strategies employed. Pupil premium reports can be found on the school blog: www.plymouthgrove.net.

Mrs Janet Tetlow, the School Business Manager, provides us with up to date budget reports and forecasts so that we can challenge any overspend and underspend in different budget areas. She also provides us with information about the management of school contracts and the health and safety around the school and the measures that are taken to keep the children safe. This includes scrutiny of the checks made to ensure that all staff and visitors are safe to work with children.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to publicly say a big thank you to both my fellow governors and the staff for all the time and hard work they put in to ensure the success of Plymouth Grove Primary School. The roles and responsibilities of Governors can be very demanding requiring a lot of personal commitment and the school is very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people. With regard to the staff I can only say "What would we do without them?" Their commitment and enthusiasm is infectious and it is thanks to their efforts that the school continues to maintain such high standards, both academically and otherwise.

Mr Dan Leaver (Chair of Governors)

Appendix 1

PLYMOUTH GROVE GOVERNOR ATTENDANCE RECORD 2015-16

| PI | Elg | Governor | 1 Dec | 21 March | 20 June |
|----|-----|-------------------|-------|----------|---------|
| | | Mike Cooke | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Joe Hill | ▪ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Lise Hopwood | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Yasser Ishaq | x | Left | left |
| | | Daniel Leaver | ✓ | ▪ | ✓ |
| | | Imtiaz Mirza | ✓ | ✓ | ▪ |
| | | Isgar Mohammed | x | ✓ | x |
| | | Abdi Muse | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Beverley Saunders | x | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Lynda Smith | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Sarah Thompson | ✓ | ▪ | ✓ |
| | | Paul Williams | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

- ✓ Present
- Apologies
- x Absent

**PLYMOUTH GROVE
GOVERNOR ATTENDANCE RECORD
FINANCE COMMITTEE
2015-16**

| PI | Elg | Governor | 19 Oct | 25 Jan | 14 March | 13 June |
|----|-----|--------------------|--------|--------|----------|---------|
| | | Mike Cooke | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Joe Hill | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Imtiaz Mirza | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Beverley Saunders | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Lynda Smith | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Paul Williams | ✓ | ▪ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Janet Tetlow (SBM) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

- ✓ Present
- Apologies
- x Absent

**PLYMOUTH GROVE
GOVERNOR ATTENDANCE RECORD
INCLUSION COMMITTEE
2015-16**

| PI | Elg | Governor | 29 Sept | 23 Nov | 1 Feb | 7 June |
|----|-----|----------------|---------|--------|-------|--------|
| | | Mike Cooke | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Lise Hopwood | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Yasser Ishaq | ✓ | x | ▪ | left |
| | | Daniel Leaver | ✓ | ▪ | ✓ | ▪ |
| | | Isgar Mohammed | x | ✓ | x | ✓ |
| | | Abdi Muse | ✓ | ✓ | ▪ | ✓ |
| | | Lynda Smith | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Sarah Thompson | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

- ✓ Present
- Apologies
- x Absent