

# Boughton under Blean & Dunkirk Methodist Primary School

## Governing Body Annual Statement 2015-6



The Governing Body of Boughton under Blean and Dunkirk Methodist School strives to be outstanding in its support and challenge of the school leadership to ensure the best education possible for pupils. This is achieved through:

- using the School Values as a framework to set the future strategic direction of the school
- thorough and regular monitoring of objectives stated in the School Plan
- ensuring the highest standards of Safeguarding operate within the school
- monitoring the school's financial management
- pro-active interaction with school stakeholders
- undertaking a cycle of regular policy review
- keeping abreast of developments in education through training and attending governor briefings
- when required, convening a Panel to hear formal complaints (none in 2015-6)

### **Governing Body Membership & Attendance**

The Governing Body has 13 constituted positions and its work is supported by a highly experienced and competent Clerk. At the beginning of the 2015-6 academic year there was a Foundation Governor vacancy and a Parent Governor vacancy. Both vacancies were filled during Term 2 following a parent governor election to nominate Mr Allan Cummins and Methodist Church nomination of Mrs Ruth Everingham. Two experienced Co-Opted governors who are Chairs at other schools resigned their positions on this governing body in September and October respectively. This had been anticipated and the succession planning undertaken in previous months meant that their full governor positions were filled immediately by Associate Governors who had joined us last year thus resulting in no vacancies.

Six Full Governing Body Meetings were held during the year. All meetings were quorate. Attendance of serving governors at these meetings was 84% across the year.

### **School Leadership**

The Governors have thoroughly enjoyed working with Mr Way as the new substantive Headteacher who started in September 2015. He settled into the role extremely quickly and has proved a popular leader with staff, pupils, parents and governors. His open, inclusive and friendly disposition to governors makes monitoring the progress of the school a collaborative and productive process. The grading awarded to the school following the Ofsted inspection in October 2015 reflects the hard work all the staff, including Mr Way, have put in to ensure the quality of learning for pupils is at least Good.

### **Review of Strategic Plan**

In July 2016 the full governing body reviewed and re-approved the five year strategic plan its on-going relevance.

### **Monitoring Visits**

During academic year 2015-6, the governors undertook 27 monitoring visits of the school. The visits were structured to ensure governors could undertake monitoring thoroughly and work with a number of different members of staff. Monitoring visits were undertaken usually by pairs of governors, lasted 1-3 hours and were aligned with the school plan or statutory duties. They included:

Provision of Pupils' Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare	1 visit
Effectiveness of Leadership & Management (via implementation of robust systems)	3 visits
Quality of Teaching, Learning & Assessment specifically intervention support	2 visits
Quality of Early Years Provision	2 visits
Safeguarding/Health & Safety	4 visits
Quality of Teaching, Learning & Assessment specifically in writing & maths	3 visits
Progress against SIAMS improvement objectives	1 visit
Finance	5 visits
PE & Sports Premium spending	2 visits
Head Teacher appraisal and mid-year review	2 visits

In addition, governors undertook non-monitoring visits to the school, for example to host and support parents answering questions during the parental survey. Members of the governing body have also participated in volunteer activities not connected specifically to their governor role such as listening to pupils read, driving minibuses and leading Collective Worship. Governors also carried out frequent but random checks upon the school's Single Central Register to ensure its accuracy and completeness.

#### **Parent Survey (March 2016)**

The school leadership in conjunction with governors prepared, administered and analysed a parental survey which was carried out during the day of Term 4 Parent Meetings using a web-based survey tool and sought parental opinions on homework. There were more than 130 respondents. As a consequence of the views expressed, the school have changed the weekly homework timings so that homework can be done across a weekend as well as weekdays.

#### **Training**

During 2015-6 governors and the clerk attended more than 20 training courses and governor district meetings on a diverse range of subjects provided by the Local Authority, Faversham Collaboration or via e-learning. Examples of the courses attended include: Finance, Prevent Strategy, Head Teacher Appraisal, SEN, Early Years and Safeguarding. In addition, all new governors have attended the New Governor Induction training course and six governors attended a school staff INSET day in September.

#### **DBS checks**

From September 2016, all members of governing boards are required by law to have an enhanced DBS check. We are pleased to confirm that all currently-serving governors have already had these checks conducted (our thanks to Mrs Inge in the school office for ensuring these are complete).

*The Governing Body welcomes interest from parents or members of the local community who may wish to consider becoming a governor or associate governor in the future. The Chair may be contacted via the school office to discuss the requirements of the role informally.*