

Brinsley Primary School.

Governor's statement of impact 2014-15

There can be no doubt that 2014-15 was a very successful but challenging year for Brinsley Primary and Nursery School.

The Governing Body saw the resignation of the previous Chair at the end of the Summer Term and whilst the knowledge and experience of the previous Chair will be missed, we are excited by the prospect of recruiting new members – all of whom we hope will bring a range of compatible skills to The Governing Body. Our Vice Chair has undertaken a skills audit of Governors so that we can identify weaknesses and strengths and hopefully use these to inform our recruitment drive.

Further, at the same time the Head Teacher Mrs Jo Knapp left the school to take up a headship in a larger Primary School. She was replaced by Mrs Emma Haywood who was appointed as acting Head Teacher for the next two terms. The Governing Body is therefore hard at work to appoint a new Head Teacher to a permanent post at the school.

In addition to the regular governing body meetings, through which governors challenged and supported the school's leadership team, the governors were involved in monitoring activities and focussed school visits which increased their depth of knowledge and allowed challenge and support to be balanced and progressive. The impact that the Governing Body has on the school is considered as a formal agenda item at every Full Governing Body meeting and at every Committee of the Governing Body.

Governors held the leadership team accountable for the content of the School Improvement Plan and, having helped agree its content, went on to monitor progress of its key objectives both directly and indirectly.

Examples of indirect monitoring include hearing regular updates of pupil progress at the full Governing Body meetings and holding the Head Teacher to account for meeting set targets.

Direct 'in school' monitoring is a strength of the current Governing Body. Individual governors attend 1:1 meetings with the Head Teacher and link staff to discuss the progress of an assigned area of responsibility. An example of this is the current Vice Chairs work in the school to look at the swimming policy and the way that swimming lessons are provided for our pupils. As a consequence the school now ensures that all pupils receive at least 15 swimming sessions and are given addition sessions as needed to ensure that they can swim at least 25 metres before they leave the school is now policy and standard practice.

They also undertake pre-planned individual monitoring visits to ensure objectives from the SIP are being met. The governor responsible for Health and

Safety had involvement in routine health and safety inspections, which directly resulted in improvement to site safety. He also holds regular meetings with the site manager to ensure that health and safety concerns are addressed.

Governors gathered opinions of parents at parents' evenings and assemblies and through contact with parents at school events. These are then fed back to the Acting Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team in order that suggestions could be considered and actioned if appropriate.

Governors oversaw the spending of pupil premium money. The Governing Body recognises that there is more work to do in this area and this is a focus of the Governing Bodies work over the next two terms. The governors help plan and approve spending of the sports premium allowance, which in 2014-15 led to an increase in pupils participating in competitive and non-competitive sporting events. It also led to the evolution of an intra-school program of events which allowed so many more of our pupils to lead and compete. One objective identified was to provide staff with the knowledge and expertise to develop good practice in PE and Sports. It is acknowledged that this has not been as successful as might have been hoped and I as Chair of Governors and starting a dialogue with Loughborough University (a recognised centre of excellence for sport and physical training) to develop an excellence model working hopefully with one of their researchers which will not only establish good practice but will also allow the school to measure a pupils individual progress.

The Foundation Year, with the support and encouragement of the Governing Body, achieved an Investors in Pupils award this year which was a sterling achievement.

The Governing Body monitors the spending in the budget and identifies areas of concern and discusses ways of minimising the impact of budget constraints so that no detriment is experienced by the Pupils in the school. As Chair I attended the school to observe the Office manager and the Acting Head working with an officer of the authority to restructure the schools budget in line with priorities discussed and agreed by the Governing Body. The Head Teacher provides a termly report to the Governing Body which encompasses all the key monitoring areas thereby keeping the GB up to date with spending of Pupil Premium and Sports fund monies as well as developments in SEND and Pupil progress. Similarly as Chair I report to each Full Governing Body Meeting on how effective we have been at challenging the Head Teacher and SLT in key areas for which the GB is responsible.

The Governing Body encourages staff and Governors to attend training courses and to share their knowledge and experience by cascade training if appropriate.

We attend reviews of progress in all curriculum areas and observe how the assessments drive staff objectives in appraisals and link with the objectives set out in the SIP document.

At the time of writing this statement (October 2015) we have the two objectives of preparing for an Ofsted inspection and appointing a new Head Teacher. The new head will face the challenge of getting the school ready for Ofsted and implementing changes in Policy and Practice within the school in line with current best practice. This will be something that the Governing Body will be anxious to ensure happens quickly and effectively so that the professionalism and dedication of our staff team is fully recognised by the Ofsted inspectorate when they visit the school.

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Chair of Governors.