



Governing Body's Annual Report to Parents 2016/17
from the Chair of Governors

18th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Governing Body's Annual Report to Parents where we present our **Assessment of Impact** statement. This holds the Governing Body to account for our actions over the last year and demonstrates our effectiveness in improving educational outcomes for our Granby children. It is more formal than our usual newsletter.

Granby Governors

There is information on the website on individual governors – who we are, our term of office, any declarations of interest, our individual governor responsibilities (including committees we serve on), each Governor's record of attendance at meetings and the type of governorship we hold. Although the Governing Body is composed of Parent, Co-opted and Staff governor members and one governor appointed by the Local Authority, we are not delegates so do not represent those groups but work together for Granby Primary School.



The 'Governor' section on the school website contains details of how the Governing body operates. The Delegation Planner under the 'Governors' Committees' section details our legal duties and who carries them out - either the full governing board, committees, groups or individuals

Assessment of Impact 2016/17

Although Mr Fowler, the Headteacher, is responsible for the day-to-day running of Granby school, it is the *Governing Body* that is legally responsible for all major decisions about the school and its future. Governors are not the experts in education but we do come from a wide range of backgrounds and bring our different skills and our enthusiasm to the governing body.

The Governors have a duty to promote high standards of educational achievement throughout the school and we do this principally through our 3 principal functions:-

- 1. Ensuring the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction*
- 2. Holding the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and for the performance management of staff*
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure Granby's budget is well spent*



Quality of Governance

To equip ourselves with the skills and knowledge we need to do the job well, Granby governors take advantage of the wide variety of training programmes available to all school governors. Governors aim to attend at least one training session per term, either to address a personal skills gap, to develop skills to fulfill a role on the governing body or to keep up-to-date with new governance legislation and the ever-changing educational landscape! We are also kept abreast of new school initiatives and changes in education by training from Granby staff.



Individual or whole governing body skills gaps are identified through a Skills Audit. We address any needs through training and, when we have a vacancy on the Governing Body, through recruitment.

New governors initially have a Local Authority group training session and are supported in school by a mentor from the governing body who will lead them through the induction process, to enable them to play a full part on the governing body.



In the school year 2016/17, individual governors attended a wide variety of governor training courses (including Effective Financial Planning, The Curriculum, Health and Safety, Disadvantaged Pupils, Pupil Premium, Special Educational Needs, British Values, Anti-bullying and Safer Recruitment) and the whole Governing Body attended a training session on Safeguarding.

The Chair of Governors and the Clerk to the Governors have an annual appraisal to help ensure quality of governance and we are in the process of introducing an appraisal system for all governors to help support them. Our commitment to training, development, self-evaluation and internal and external review ensures that we are aware of our roles and responsibilities and so are well-equipped to deliver our 3 core functions and be an effective Governing Body.

School Improvement and how Governors monitor this

Governors are responsible for setting the school's strategic framework, identifying priorities for school improvement and monitoring progress towards these goals. We must provide challenge to the school and hold the Headteacher and senior leaders to account for improving the quality of teaching and learning and school performance – this is a core governance function. We do this through informed questioning in meetings, through regular monitoring and analysis of data on children's performance and progress and through visits into school to observe initiatives and school policies in place and to see their impact on learning.



School improvement is monitored by governors in detail at the termly Phase Forum meetings where the 3 governors assigned to each phase (Foundation, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2) monitor, question and analyse the pupil data in the Phase report with the school Phase Leader. We look in detail at Attainment and Progress for all groups of pupils, Quality of Teaching, Behaviour, Safety and Leadership. Phase Forum data feeds into the termly full governing body School Improvement Plan meeting. The questions asked by governors and the responses are minuted and are one way we show that the Headteacher is being held to account for the pupils' performance – a governor core function.



Each Granby governor aims to make at least one visit per term to school during the school day. These visits help governors get to know the school and its pupils, which is essential if we are to make the best strategic decisions for school improvement. We can see school policies and initiatives in practice in the classroom and monitor their impact and effectiveness. Governors may also have the chance to see children's written work on the visits. One of these three annual visits will be to monitor an aspect of the current School Improvement Plan and another will be to monitor that governor's individual specialism area, which may be a curriculum or other area such as Health and Safety. (See the Governors section of the school website for individual governor roles.)

School visits this year have included focuses on Writing and on how teachers are aiming to reduce the attainment gap between disadvantaged and other pupils in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. Visits can also be an opportunity for governors to monitor that the correct safety and well-being protocols are being followed and, depending on the focus of the visit, governors might sensitively use the 'Pupil Voice' interview to ask children how they are feeling in school.



The curriculum changes and introduction of the government's Age Related Expectations have set schools higher and more challenging attainment targets, but data and other evidence shows the Governing Board that Granby staff are addressing these challenges. Granby children make very good progress between entry in Foundation Stage and their SATs assessment in Year 6, as this year's data shows. The number of children working 'at greater depth' in Year 6 is also significantly higher. The Governors acknowledge that this progress and attainment is due to the hard work of all Granby staff.

Financial management

Governors look at financial statements and ask questions to ensure that the school makes efficient use of its budget and provides best value for money. Our finance committee includes governors with an expertise in accountancy and other governors have attended finance training courses so we are able to ask appropriate and challenging questions. The financial data we receive from school and our termly visits into school help us





monitor the impact of the financial resources that have been allocated to particular areas. At a time when school budgets have been falling in real terms, efficient use of our budget and prudent planning means we are in a much sounder financial position than many schools.

You may have heard that the formula used by government to work out how much to give each school is changing. This is, in principle, a good move as the funding is intended to be distributed much more fairly across the country. This new National Formula Funding will be allocated from 2018/19.

Pupil Safety and Well-being

Staff and Governors have a legal duty to keep children safe in education, following statutory guidelines. You can find out about the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in the 'About us' section on the school website. The whole Governing Body has attended Safeguarding training this year.

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All governors have been DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked. This is the government's service to check that unsuitable people cannot work with children and other vulnerable groups.

All staff (and regular volunteers) who work in school are subject to statutory checks and are appointed under Safer Recruitment procedures. Some governors involved in recruitment interviews have had Safer Recruitment training.

Partnership and Community Engagement

Governors continue to develop communication within the Granby 'family'. The link between school, pupils, parents and the local community generally is an important part of the Granby ethos, and the mix of Co-opted Governors from the local community and Parent Governors on the Governing Body helps foster good community cohesion. (See also the Community Links on the school website.)

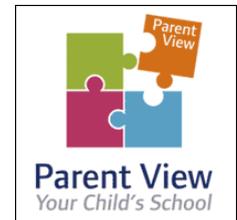
Our Parents' Action Group is now well-established and liaises through the school Office Manager. A daytime and an evening meeting on the same day accommodate a wider range of parents. The PAG was actively involved in the selection of our new Deputy Headteacher and in the development of our school vision statement. It was particularly good to see so many dads, grandpas, etc., in school for Fathers' Day. This initiative was a suggestion from the PAG.

Governors regularly attend Parents Evenings to talk to parents and to help them access Parent View on the Ofsted website, where they can give their opinions on Granby and share

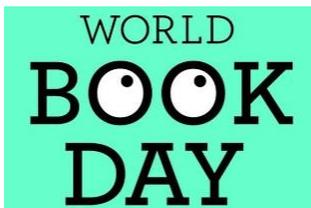


those of others. We monitor the overall response (individual responses are anonymous) and address any concerns raised. Thank you for the 248 parent responses during 2016/17!

This year Granby's article on Engaging Parents was published in the Summer edition of the Leicestershire Governor newsletter, a publication that shares good practice between Governors across Leicestershire. We highlighted our Parents Action Group and the direction to Ofsted Parent View at Parents Evenings.



We are continuing to develop a pupil voice and to involve student ideas within school through the School Council, with a link school governor. (The Council, also, was involved in the Deputy Headteacher selection process and the development of our vision statement.) Class Ambassadors are ready to welcome any adult coming into the room with a brief description of the current lesson's learning objective. Governors are also able to sensitively ask pupils their views during their termly visits into school.



Governors come into school for informal and social events and try to have a presence at all the main school events, so please come and speak to us there. We especially enjoy an excuse to dress up and some of us had great fun joining in with the children for the World Book Day celebration. Your children will be used to seeing Governors in school, whether in the classroom, the playground, the dining hall or in assemblies.

Change of School Status

During 2016/17, after a wide-ranging consultation with stakeholders – parents/carers, staff, the teaching unions and the wider community - Granby Governors made the decision to covert to Academy status as the best choice for our children at Granby. Since then, we have been actively investigating the two options of joining an existing Multi Academy Trust (MAT) or forming a new MAT with other like-minded schools. We are well-placed to continue our journey towards academisation when the partners and timing are right. (Some other schools are not as far along in the academisation process as Granby yet.)

We are seeking to work with local partners which:-

- have school improvement as the main driver.
- are primary schools with a similar nature, values and ethos to Granby's.
- want to encourage Local Governing Boards to retain responsibility for their own school.
- want Trustees who are local people, experienced, engaged and committed to the schools and the Trust.



Granby will continue to work collaboratively with local schools and in its wider partnerships after academisation, even if they are not part of the academy group.



The school website

Governors monitor the school website to make sure we conform to statutory guidelines. We routinely review school policies on a planned rolling programme or when legislation changes, if sooner. You can find lots of information about governors on the website.

Behaviour

The Governors' 'Statement of Behaviour Principles' on the website is the statutory guidance that governors must provide and review. This guides the Headteacher in determining measures to promote good behaviour and discipline amongst pupils. (See the website for these principles.)

The Granby Vision

The Governing Body is guided by our school mission statement '*Encouraging achievement in a safe and caring environment*'. At Granby we aim to achieve this by educating the whole child and nurturing life skills, while teaching children to take responsibility for their own learning. Our school vision statement below was produced after consultation with staff, the School Council and the Parent Action Group and summarises 'The Granby Way':-



Generous
Responsible
Active learners
Nurturing everyone
Brave enough to try
You can!

(In the 'About us' section of the website you can find full details of our school's Vision, Aims, Values, Culture and Ethos.)

Governing Body Priorities for 2017/18 (not prioritised)

- Continuing to strive for high standards of educational achievement and the best education for *every* child by identifying and addressing barriers to learning. We want *all* children to achieve their full potential.
- Identifying educational priorities for the year, including Writing across the whole school, Foundation and Key Stage 1 Phonics, Pupil Premium pupils, Maths
- Continuing our journey towards Academy status
- Continuing to develop links with parents and the wider community
- Developing the effectiveness of the Governing Body through a Performance Management Policy to support all governors





- Continuing our commitment to Governor training and development
- Addressing changes in legislation, including Data Protection
- Considering adjusting the timings of some governors' meetings so that all governors can attend

The Granby Family

We have a fantastic, hardworking teaching team at Granby who strive to achieve the very best outcomes for all our children and I am privileged to be leading such a committed and effective Governing Body.

On behalf of Granby Governors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for supporting the school as you do. It's you, the staff and governors working together for the children that make Granby the great school it is, one that makes a real difference to the achievements and development of our pupils, which is what it's all about.

With best wishes,

Glenys Mulvany,
(Chair of Governors)



If you have any feedback on this report or any other governance questions not answered by the website you can contact me via Granby School office.