

Granby Primary
School

T: 0116 229 8160

M: 07899 895945

GRANBY GOVERNORS'

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2018

ABOUT US...

Some of us are elected by parents or staff. One of us is appointed by the Local Authority.

We all meet together twice a term. One of these meetings focusses on the School Improvement Plan.

We also have two committees: Finance, Premises, Health & Safety; and Pay & Personnel

We meet in small groups called Phase Forums — one group for each phase — each term

We are looking for a couple of parents to join us in our phase forum meetings. Interested...?

We try to come to all the main school events—see you there!

Check out the Governors section of the website for lots more information...

Summer Term 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Governing Body's Annual Report to Parents which holds the Governing Body to account for our actions. The report's aim is to demonstrate Granby Governors' effectiveness over the last school year in improving educational outcomes for the children and constitutes an 'Assessment of Impact' statement.



Who are we?

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, though, so do not actually represent those groups but all work together for Granby Primary School. (The Headteacher can also choose to be a school governor but does not lead the governing body.) We come from a wide range of backgrounds and bring our different skills and our enthusiasm to the governing body. We are not the experts in education (apart from the staff governors!) but take advantage of many governor training courses available to build our knowledge. You can find out more about individual governors and their roles and how the governing body operates on the Governor section of the school website.

What do Governors do?

The *Governing Body* is legally responsible for all major decisions about the school and its future. (The Headteacher is responsible for day-to-day running of the school.)

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

How do we ensure Quality of Governance ?

New governors have an initial Local Authority training session and they a mentor from the governing body to support them through the induction process. This enables them to play their part on the governing body from the start.

To ensure we have the skills and knowledge to do the job well, we identify any group or individual skills gaps through our annual Skills Audit. These gaps are addressed through training and also through recruitment when we have a vacancy on the Governing Body.

Granby governors take advantage of the many training programmes available to all school governors. We each aim to attend at least one training session per term, either to address a personal skills gap, to develop skills to fulfil a role on the governing body or just to keep up-to-date with the ever-changing educational landscape and changes in legislation! In the school year 2017/18, individual governors attended a wide variety of courses such as Effective Financial Planning, Improving the Organisation, Health and Safety, The Curriculum, Environmental Education, Special Educational Needs, E-Safety and the new General Data Protection Regulations. We had whole Governing Body training on Safeguarding and on Understanding Data (a new government format) and Granby staff have attended our meetings to keep inform us about new school initiatives and changes in education. (Our Clerk to Governors attends regular Local Authority briefings which keeps us up-to-date with changes in governance regulations.)

The Governing Body's 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.

How do Governors monitor School Improvement?

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 and challenging 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. With the senior teacher leading each phase (Foundation, Key Stage, Lower Key Stage and Upper Key Stage 2), we look in detail at Attainment and Progress for all groups of pupils, Quality of Teaching, Behaviour, Safety and Leadership. 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.

Granby governors aim to make 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 last year have covered many areas but have focused particularly on writing.

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.

Data and other evidence has shown the Governing Board that Granby staff are addressing the priorities identified in the School Improvement plan. 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' is also generally 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 relatively sound financial position.

Pupil Safety and Well-being

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

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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.)

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 well-established Parents' Action Group liaises through the school Office Manager. A daytime and an evening meeting on the same day accommodate a wider range of parents. It was particularly good to see so many dads, grandpas, etc., in school for Fathers' Day again last year. This initiative was originally 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 other parents. We monitor the overall response (individual responses are anonymous) and address any concerns raised. Thank you for the 248 parent responses during 2017/18!

We are continuing to develop a pupil voice and to involve student ideas within school through the School Council, with a link school governor. 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. Your children will be used to seeing Governors in school, whether in the classroom, the playground, the dining hall or in assemblies.

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. Some of us attended the Cycle Barbecue, Granby Fete and Granby Day. Once again some of us enjoyed the excuse to dress up in silly clothes and had great fun joining in with the children for the World Book Day celebration.

What else have we done this year?

- Adjusted some Governing Body meeting times to the evening so that all governors can attend
- Continued our journey towards academy status, working with local schools who share our values and ethos
- Developed an Appraisal Policy for all governors
- Monitored and updated the school website to conform to statutory guidelines

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, produced after consultation with staff, the School Council and the Parent Action Group, summarises 'The Granby Way':-

Generous

Responsible

Active learners

Nurturing everyone

Brave enough to try

You can!

(See the 'About us' section of the website for full details of our school's Vision, Aims, Values, Culture and Ethos.)

Our Governing Body Priorities for 2018/19 (not prioritised)

- Recruiting a new headteacher for 2019/20 (This will be our major task this year.)
- Developing the effectiveness of the Governing Body through rolling out our Performance Management Policy to support all Granby Governors
- Identifying educational priorities for the year
- Continuing our commitment to Governor training and development
- Continuing our journey towards Academy status
- 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.
- Continuing to develop links with parents and the wider community
- Addressing changes in legislation, including Data Protection

Finally . . .

I would like to thank the committed and effective Governing Body that I feel privileged to lead and the fantastic, hardworking teaching team at Granby who strive to achieve the very best outcomes for all our children.

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.