

Annual Governors Report to Parents

July 2018

As Governors of Cliffe VC Primary School we have had quite a busy year behind the scenes. Although you see one of us on gate duty each week, our actual role may not be entirely clear to you.

Our Headteacher, Mrs Hay, leads the school and makes the day to day decisions to ensure that your children have the best education the school can provide.

Alongside and in partnership with her, the school governors provide strategic leadership and accountability.

Its key functions are to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school
- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher (a critical friend)

While the Headteacher manages the performance of her staff, we manage the performance of Mrs Hay, setting her challenging targets for school improvement.

We meet each month. Sometimes the focus is on data when we look closely at the progress being made in each class and we question Mrs Hay in order to be clear that good progress is being made and why and if good progress is not being made, why not.

At other meetings we will review school policies and check that they are being followed. We also monitor Health and Safety.

We consider all aspects of the school and discuss how improvements or changes may be made. If parents have expressed a concern to us and it has not been resolved, the concern is often brought to the meeting for discussion.

It is governors who hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, and it is governors who work with the headteacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources. We work closely with the school's finance officer, we set the budget for the year and then we monitor it on a regular basis. As with all schools nationally, the school budget is not enough to do what we consider important. Like the NHS, the money coming in does not cover the costs and we are continually looking to make savings. Our agenda is not a political one, we just seek to do the best we can with the money we have and sometimes we must make cuts. Our overriding concern is to continue to provide the best education for the children in our care and we make decisions accordingly. We also monitor how the PE and Sport money is spent and the Pupil Premium Funding.

As numbers grow at Cliffe we are always concerned about how we manage class sizes and make best use of the building. This year Mrs Hay has worked tirelessly with North Yorkshire to secure more toilets. This has been on our agenda for a number of years and so we are delighted that, finally, next year, a building project is planned.

All the Governors visit school on a regular basis and see the written policies in action in the classroom. We meet with teachers to discuss progress in particular subjects and we talk to children. We are accountable if Ofsted calls!

Governors undertake training on a regular basis in order to keep up to date with education policy locally and nationally.

We also support Mrs Hay in appointing staff. We are all very sorry to lose Miss Ware this year but delighted to have appointed Mr Hedges. The staff team at Cliffe is very professional, hardworking and dedicated to excellent teaching and learning under the strong leadership of Mrs Hay and the school continues to improve as a result.

We are a busy governing body, committed to doing our best for the school and your children now and in the future.

The minutes of the meetings are on the school website for your information.

Carole Middleton

Chair of Governors