



11th July 2016

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL STATEMENT TO PARENTS

The Department for Education has issued guidance which suggests that Governing Bodies should make an annual statement to parents, so we have prepared this document for your consideration. The Governing body at College Road Primary school endeavours to fulfil the role defined by Government supported by the South West Plymouth Education Trust. In doing so we hope that we can help to make our school the very best, it can be for the benefit of our children and be even better today than we were yesterday. We are a foundation school, and a founder member of the SWPET, a co-operative trust which ensures all member schools work together to ensure improvements.

The Department for Education guidance specifies that the annual statement should explain how we have fulfilled our responsibilities, including:

- The governance arrangements that are in place, including the remit of any committees.
- The attendance record of individual governors at board and committee meetings.
- An assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the board and any committees with details of any particular challenges that have arisen.

Before covering these areas I should firstly explain that the Governor role is intended to be strategic in nature while being a "critical friend" to the Headteacher and the school leadership team, who are responsible for the day to day operational running of the school. In reviewing the way the school works, the Governors have gained an enormous respect for all the staff in the school. The amount of effort, care for our children, and "going the extra mile" we see on a regular basis from all our staff, is nothing short of inspirational. It is not only academic progress that is evident in the school, but all the additional clubs and other activities show what a broad and fulfilling education our children benefit from in our school. I would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to all our staff for the level of effort and care they all contribute.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Governing Body is made up of 12 positions as follows:

- Three Parent Governors appointed by a ballot by parents.
- One Local Authority Governor appointed by the Local Authority.
- One Staff Governor appointed by a ballot of staff.
- Four Co-opted Governors.

- Two Foundation trust (SWPET) Governors co-opted by the Governing body themselves.
- The School Headteacher also sits on the Governing body along with a Clerk.

The current list of Governors can be found on this website. All are volunteers, giving up their own time to fulfil the roles for the benefit of our children.

We have a Clerk to the Governing Body, who helps us to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year are covered, and we have 2 sub-committees that perform much of the detailed work in accordance with their terms of reference:

- **Learning and Environment Committee:** Responsible for reviewing the curriculum related policies of the school, and the Environment element regarding the maintenance, improvement and health & safety aspects of the school buildings.
- **Finance and Personnel Committee:** Involved in the selection and recruitment of staff, and dealing with issues relating to existing staff. Responsible for setting and monitoring the budget for the school, and overseeing the financial management of the school.

Each sub committee meets 3 times per year and the Full Governing body meet 3 times a year (Autumn, Spring and Summer terms). All committees review progress through the school improvement plan. Many of us are not educational specialists but bring experience and skills from other professions that help us together to form an effective governing body. Attendance at meetings is only part of the role. Reading and preparation are required for each meeting and the various actions require following up, often via regular email correspondence. We also talk to staff on different aspects of the curriculum, spend at least a day in school together each year and a number of Governors are also parent helpers. In line with our continuous improvement ethos we ask that all Governors undertake at least one Governor training activity each year, and most of us fulfil this responsibility.

We continue to review our effectiveness against departmental guidance, and discuss the effectiveness of each meeting we hold.

Governors have the responsibility for:

- Setting strategic direction, objectives, targets and policies
- Reviewing progress against the budget, plans and targets
- Approving the school budget
- Acting as a critical friend to the Headteacher by providing support and challenge
- Appointing the Head Teacher and being active in recruitment of teaching staff

In addition, co-operative Trust Governors appointed by SWPET have a particular requirement to promote the values of the cooperative movement, and represent the views of the Trust.

Did you know that.....

- School Governors have a legal responsibility to manage the school with a view to improve standards of educational achievement at the school
- Governors are the largest volunteer force in the country; there are approximately 350,000 school governor posts in England
- Anyone aged 18 or over can become a school or college governor. No specialist qualifications are needed and people from many different backgrounds volunteer for the role.
- Enthusiasm, commitment and an interest in education are the most important qualities. You don't need to have a family member attending a school or college to become a governor.

If you, or anyone you know is interested in becoming a school governor, please do call into the school office for more information.

The main challenges we have addressed this school year at College Road include:

- Improve on the standards that all children including SEN and pupil premium children achieve.
- Introducing a new National Curriculum and associated assessment system, whilst ensuring that Learning is fun!
- Build on the school's strong record for real learning, by insuring Social Enterprise approaches are successful by classes.

I have been privileged to serve as Chair of Governors for over 30 years and we have a number of very able Governors that work together as a Governing body to support the school. We like to keep a strong mix of governors, so continue to recruit volunteers. On becoming a governor, it takes a while to understand the role before becoming fully confident and effective, so it is essential that we build our capacity for the future.

As governors, we appreciate the terrific support that parents and particularly the PTA give to the school, with the events that raise money and enrich the lives of our pupils. The importance of the partnership between all members of our school community cannot be over emphasised.

CONCLUSION

I hope that this statement has been useful and any comments would be gratefully received. We plan a yearly parent and carer survey so that may be a suitable opportunity for feedback. However, comments and suggestions are welcome at any time through the school email address or our school office.

Best wishes,

J Warwick

Mr Jim Warwick
Chair of Governors



College Road Primary School is a member of The South West Plymouth Education Trust, a co-operative schools trust.