



Headteacher: Mrs H Ward

Stancliffe Road

Bedford

MK41 9AT

Tel: 01234 300100

Email: office@hazeldeneschool.co.uk

www.hazeldeneschool.co.uk

Governors' Report to Parents 2019-20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are almost at the end of the academic year and, on behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank you for your support of the school. As most of you will know the Hazeldene family is a close-knit community working alongside parents/carers, PTA, teachers and staff.

The role of the Governing Body is to ensure high standards continue to exist at our school. Governors are not responsible for the day-to-day running of the school. The responsibilities of the Governing Body as outlined by the Government and endorsed by the Local Authority, is to support, encourage and challenge the school in all it does, so that every child in its care receives the best possible education.

The Department for Education states that governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial running of the school and making sure its money is appropriately spent.

The role of the Governing Body is a strategic one; its key functions are to:

- Agree aims and objectives for the school.
- Agree targets for achieving those aims and objectives.
- Monitor the progress the school is making towards achievement of its objectives.
- Be a source of challenge and support to the Head teacher.

We aim to achieve this by meeting twice each term as a Full Governing Body focusing on children's progress and achievements, school development and identifying how we can further support the continuing success at Hazeldene. During this academic year, we have: re-appointed a Parent Governor, an LA Governor, a Partnership Governor and an Associate Governor. We accepted one resignation and appointed a Co-opted Governor. We will also be re-electing a Staff Governor in September. All Governor attendances can be viewed on our website.

We also have three committees (Management, Development and Personnel). Each committee meets once a term and reports back to the Full Governing Body. All meetings are minuted.

The Management Committee deals with all aspects of finance, any issues arising with premises and Health and Safety. They ensure that all monies received are spent judiciously. Thanks must go to our Site Agent, Mr. Andy Ford and all cleaning staff for their outstanding work during this year in particular with the Covid-19 crisis.

Our Health and Safety Governor undertakes a termly inspection of the site, inside and out, and all recommendations are immediately acted upon.



ECM Quality Mark



Primary Science Quality Mark Silver Award



Work on our swimming pool has taken longer than expected due to further necessary work that has to be completed. We extend our thanks to Mr. Bolton, one of our Governors who has steered this project. Once work is completed, we will have an excellent facility for our school.

The Development Committee focuses on the curriculum and involves subject leaders outlining how their subjects are progressing, linked to school objectives for the current academic year. Governors on this committee visit the school at least once a year and report in detail on the subject area for which they are responsible.

The Personnel Committee deals with staffing, organisational matters and Human Resources. We are fortunate that our Governor for Well-Being, a professional in this field, is able to share his expertise with the Governing Body.

There are also statutory governor roles for SEND and Safeguarding. Governors with these responsibilities carry out termly visits and report to the appropriate committee and also to the Full Governing Body.

We have a Governors' Action plan which is updated each year in order to ensure that it dovetails with the School Development plan.

In September 2019 the school analysed the KS2 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) results. The school achieved the following: Reading 78%, Writing 86%, Maths 83%, SPaG 78% and Combined 69%. This compares with National averages: Reading 73%, Writing 78%, Maths 79%, SPaG 83% and Combined 65%. We are delighted to be above the National averages for our first cohort of Year 6 children.

As Governors we also undertake learning walks throughout the school – these provide an opportunity to meet with the children and also review School Development priorities. The feedback from the learning walk in the Autumn term was very positive and confirmed that high standards are maintained across all classes.

There can be no denying the challenging circumstances that we have all found ourselves in nationally, with Covid-19 dominating all of our actions. It has been a hugely emotional and exacting time for all our Hazeldene family.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mrs. Helen Ward, her Senior Leadership team, teachers and all staff for their dedicated work during this difficult time. Despite the lockdown Hazeldene has continued to provide face-to-face provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. In addition, staff have undertaken an enormous amount of work in order to provide detailed remote education and support for the children at home. ALL staff are still working tirelessly in order to ensure that the school continues to provide the best possible education and care for its pupils in these unprecedented times.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to provide the very best education for our young people no matter the circumstances.

Cheryl Robinson
Chair of Governors
Hazeldene School