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Dear Parents and Carers,

## Governors' Report to Parents 2020-21

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 continued 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. To quote the Governors' handbook, published by the Department of Education, governors 'are the strategic leaders of our schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets 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, an LA governor has resigned (still a vacancy), a staff governor was reappointed after a nomination process and a new co-opted governor was appointed. 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 continuing outstanding work during this year, in particular with the lockdown as a result of 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.



Leadership & Management Standard

Work on our swimming pool is ongoing. We are currently working with swimming pool contractors to have issues resolved so that the pool can be fully effective and used to its maximum from September 2021. We would like to extend our thanks to all staff and our Health and Safety Governor who have been involved in working on this.

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 during the academic year and report in detail on the subject area for which they are responsible. This year visits have been virtual due to the lockdown but all governors with responsibility for subjects have 'virtually visited' the school and met with subject leaders.

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 continue 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.

The school has recently undertaken mock KS2 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) with Y6 pupils. The results are: 80% at expected level for reading; 75% at expected level for writing; 83% at expected level for Maths and 73% at expected level combined. The results are on target with predictions made at the beginning of the academic year. This year group has benefitted from interventions since returning to school after lockdown, particularly in Maths and these results demonstrate the impact of these. This compares with National averages for 2019 (not available for 2020), where expected level combined was 65% for all pupils.

There can be no denying the challenging circumstances that we have all found ourselves in nationally, with Covid-19 and lockdown dominating all of our actions. All staff have undertaken an enormous amount of preparation in respect of providing detailed remote learning, working with children in school as well as maintaining the continued links with all stakeholders to support them during the challenging times. It has been a hugely emotional and exacting time for all our Hazeldene family.

We would like to express our continued gratitude to Mrs. Helen Ward, her Senior Leadership team, teachers and all staff for their dedicated work during this difficult time. 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