



Blue Sky Federation

Governor Impact Statement: July 2017

Our Vision:

Being together: building on our strengths, valuing our individuality

Together, we will celebrate the unique qualities and characteristics that each school brings to our federation.

As two, small, village schools we will continue to enhance and celebrate our qualities and characteristics. We believe we are stronger together; broadening and enriching opportunities for all. The ethos, values, heritage and status of both schools will be respected and preserved - embracing a vibrant future.

Our unique offering of Flexi Schooling and Forest School continues to be fully supported by governors.

As a governing body our main focus is to support and challenge the school to ensure that all of our pupils, regardless of their backgrounds or additional needs, make appropriate progress to reach potential, supported by a challenging and diverse curriculum. For this to happen the pupils must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff all working together within a happy, safe and stimulating environment.

The work of the governing body has had a significant impact on developing our schools. Listed below are examples of activities, events, and systems that illustrate the impact of the governing body on school improvement.

At half termly meetings we received:

Head's report – which included details of pupil numbers in school and pre-school, attendance, the quality of teaching and learning, and events.

Pupil data – the Assistant Head provided regular information on pupil progress and attainment during this year, the new National Curriculum and working without levels.

Information about interventions – the leadership team reported on use of Pupil Premium (PP) funding, organisation of PP pupils as well as general strategies used in classes to reach targets in key issues.

Governors were shown how assessment data was inputted to the new assessment program and how Governors can interpret it, now that teachers no longer report in levels.

These examples are just some of the ways in which Governors had the opportunity to challenge and seek clarification on progress and identify how this was impacting on different groups of pupils. It gave them a focus on what to look for and ask about during visits. Minutes of meetings demonstrated how governors used this knowledge to inform their questioning. Also, the governors benchmark their data against similar schools, the Local Authority and schools nationally to ensure the school's standards and expectations are high.

Data Working Party

The Data Working Party was set up this year to scrutinize the progress of pupils in both schools to ensure that teaching and interventions were being effective. Governors met with the head teacher at least once a term and looked at progress data, the results of tests and complete book scrutinise. The minutes and findings were shared with the full governing body. Due to the presentation of data in a new format devised by the Assistant Head teacher governors were more fully informed on the progress and attainment of groups of pupils. The impact of this was to hold leaders more firmly to account. It was evident from book looks and results that there was an improvement in progress in all year groups.



Governor visits

In addition, Governors visited the school as part of their monitoring of the School Development Plan key issues, allowing Governors to speak directly to staff and pupils as well as look at pupils' books. Governors who were able to make these visits reported their findings to the full Governing Body for discussion. Governors were able to see the improvements to teaching and learning through daily practice in pupils work. They were able to talk to the pupils about their enjoyment of Forest School and how this impacts on the wider curriculum.

Policies

Governors review school policies as part of the review cycle to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list.

Personnel and Pay

The Governors reviewed the Pay Policy in July 2016. The performance of all staff is discussed in general at the Resources Committee.

Governors have supported the head teacher with issues over performance where necessary.

The performance reviews of the headteacher is undertaken by two governors with special responsibility for this, and independent guidance is sought. The impact is that headteacher's pay is linked to performance, and the priorities for school improvement become performance objectives for our headteacher.

Due to budget constraints a staffing review has been carried out at Northrepps Primary School with support from the Local Authority.

Financial Management

The Resources Committees worked with the Office Manager to ensure that the budget was managed effectively and improvements were effective and continuous. As a result of careful budget management we have established a pre-school at Erpingham Primary (Little Brown Hare). This has included fencing the site, alterations to existing buildings and a new cabin. Provision for toilets for Early Years pupils has been made in the main building. Governors attend all budget setting and revisions with the Office Manager and Finance Officer from the Local Authority.

Staff Recruitment

Governors have been involved in the recruitment of Pre-School staff, teachers and support staff.

School Evaluation Form

Throughout the year Governors and the leadership team discussed the Self Evaluation Form and Governors had an opportunity to input their comments. The knowledge of both schools has grown due to the increase and quality of monitoring as well as challenges to the head teacher.

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

In July 2017, Erpingham VC Primary School had its church school inspection. As part of this, two governors spent considerable time with the inspector answering questions and also attended the feedback session. The inspector looked at the distinctiveness as effectiveness of the school as a church school, how the school meets the needs of its learners, the impact of collective worship, the effectiveness of religious education and the effectiveness of leadership and management as a church school. We were delighted that the school received a 'good' grade, particularly as standards have been raised.



The inspector commented on the strong Christian ethos at the school, which is constantly reviewed and discussed by the governors, as well as its impact being monitored at every governor visit.

Governor expertise

A review of the governing body in January 2017 has led to a number of changes in the make-up of the governing body which has brought a wider variety of expertise to the federation. This has helped to ensure the school has moved forward. The governing body now have a clear action plan and are in the process of completing a detailed skills audit which will inform training, monitoring and support for the coming year.

Partnerships

The federation works in partnership with a number of other schools to ensure support and challenge. This also helps us explore ways to become more sustainable.

We have a dedicated 'cluster' governor who attends all cluster meetings of schools in the area. The impact is that we are meeting our duty to the cluster, and ensuring that the school has a say in how cluster operates and monies used. Feedback from cluster meetings are given in every meeting of the full governing body.

As an active member of Aylsham Cluster Trust the governing body are currently working on a more formalised system of school to school support within the co-operative trust.

Ofsted

Erpingham VC Primary is 'Good' (Feb 2014)

Northrepps Primary is 'Requires Improvement' (Feb 2017)

As a result of the Ofsted inspection at Northrepps governors have worked closely with the head teacher and leadership team to address the issues. We worked closely with the Local Authority Improvement Team and established an Improvement Board across both schools. This meets weekly and includes the Chair of Governors. Minutes are published on Governor Hub and improvements discussed at full governing body meetings. The impact of this is that our improvement partner from the LA told the meeting of the Full Governing Body in July 2017 that we are taking effective action.

July 2017