



Northrepps Primary School

Church Street, Northrepps, Norfolk NR27 0LG

Tel: 01263 579396

Website: www.northrepps.norfolk.sch.uk

December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Governors Update

What do the Governing Board *actually* do?

Interestingly this is a question that is often not asked! Most people may think they have some idea, but if you ask them for more information often there is a bit of a gap. As the Governing board for Northrepps and Erpingham, the Blue Sky Federation, we have a small but dedicated and hardworking set of governors who apply themselves to supporting and developing our schools. Over the past few months we have been focusing not only on continuing to develop the federation but also identifying opportunities to build a sustainable future.

So what are the key things that a Governor is responsible for?

We:

Provide clear direction, communicate our common beliefs; identify and plan how to achieve long term goals.

Oversee the financial performance of the schools

Hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school

Help to shape the school and federation's future direction

Monitor and review the schools' performance against targets set

Make decisions about the schools' budget and staffing

Make sure our schools provide for all pupils, including those with any additional needs

Decide how the federation can encourage the pupil's spiritual moral and cultural development

Hold the head teacher and senior leaders to account including carrying out the head teacher's performance appraisal

Participate in events/trips at the schools

Talk to and speak with pupils and parents regularly

Attend courses to update our knowledge and expertise

We have a full Governing Board meeting half termly and 2 sub committees who meet half termly. One is responsible for finance, staffing and premises and the other for pupils and the curriculum. The sub committees review specific items and then feed that back to the rest of the governing board. Each member of the committee brings with them their own personal life experiences as a parent and the jobs they do or used to do. More importantly they are individuals with a commitment to the education of children and who wish to give something back to the community. The job of a governor is unpaid, and often most of the work that goes on is unseen.

Over the past few weeks, you will have seen the governors coming in at least weekly for what we have termed as "booster sessions", These are short meetings where we focus on a particular area of

the School Development Plan, or have a session looking at children's work, talking to them about that work and understanding the progress they have made. This helps us to break down the work that needs to be done into smaller, easy to manage objectives, allows us to focus directly and enables us to get a hands on feel for what is actually happening in school.

So, what do we do with all this information?

Well, essentially after gathering information and data first hand, we are then able to go back and look at the Development Plan and annual targets and track our progress. Once we have done this we can work with the head teacher to provide challenge and support in achieving these objectives. We also celebrate the achievements of the teachers and the children and the successes of our two schools.

At present we are preparing for an imminent Ofsted inspection at Northrepps. This means we are ensuring that we are able to provide evidence of the progress our children make, what has already been achieved since their last visit and how we achieved it. We are using some new techniques including recording some of our governor booster sessions onto mini videos. These provide a quick and unique timed insight into activity that has taken place in real time. I am not sure all of the governors are looking forward to being media "stars", but it has been fun at times!

So what now?

At present we would like to encourage more participation from parents and members of the community. We are looking for another parent governor to join the team. You don't need any specific qualifications, what is required is a desire to get involved in the life of the school and making it a place you are proud to send your children to. If you are interested, or want to come and talk to one of the other governors please contact me, or the school office and we can arrange a convenient time. In addition, literally just a half an hour every now and then, supporting the various activities held by the Friends Committee who fund-raise for the school, would be a huge help. Often people think they need to donate huge amounts of time. That is not the case. Half an hour here and there is all that is needed. Again, please contact the school office for more information.

Our children will only be able to reach their full potential if we all work together to achieve the same goal. We are very proud of our federation and committed to sustaining it. Please join us in providing the very best opportunities for our children in any way that you can.

We hope to see and speak with more of you very soon,

Dr Corallie Murray

Chair of Governors - Blue Sky Federation