



GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER



Yenton Primary School

Issue No. 2

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Chair's Message

Welcome to the second edition of the Yenton School Governors' Newsletter.

Dear families,

Well what a great way to start our second newsletter with the outcome of the School's recent Ofsted.

I would like to thank the staff and the governors for their hard work and commitment in ensuring that we provide the best education for Yenton's children. It is a real team effort and all staff and governors are committed to providing the **best opportunities and life chances for each and every one of our pupils**, as was clearly demonstrated during the inspection visit. As always, educating our children is a partnership between the school and home so thank you parents and carers for supporting your children. However, the biggest thank you has to go to the kids at Yenton Primary School. I must admit I felt immensely proud of our children when the Inspector gave her verbal feedback at the end of the day and informed us of her observations and the conversations she had with pupils. Well done children – you are amazing!

Despite having our Ofsted Inspection out of the way for another three years, I want to assure you that our drive for improvement will continue. As a governing board, we are ambitious and we have high aspirations for all pupils. We will continue to support and challenge the school and ensure that we put the school in the best position moving forward.

This brings me to other aspects of the governing board work, that being overseeing the financial performance of the school. As you will recall from previous

newsletters/letters from Mr Smith and me and from the press, school funding is reaching a crisis point and many schools (including Yenton) have had to make difficult decisions to protect budgets.

Over the past 18 months we have worked hard to ensure we protect the school financially. The biggest part of any school budget is its staff. Our priority is providing children with the best education and this means protecting our teaching and support staff and ensuring that we provide support for children with additional needs. In order to protect our budget, we have reviewed the goods and services that we buy and have made savings where we can; we have also tried to capture all pupil premium funding to enable us to provide additional support for children. Like most schools we have had to make some difficult decisions, not least the decision around the future of the Foundation Building and the current nursery provision.

I have recently heard that some 30% of state primary schools have gone into deficit budgets. However, I am pleased to say that as we move into the new financial year we have set a balanced budget and I thank the school's Leadership Team, Mrs Rafique (School Business Manager) and governors on our Finance and Resources Committee for ensuring that we maintain a sustainable budget.

I wish you all a good break and hope the children return to school refreshed and raring to go.

Vicki Popplewell

Chair of Governing Board

What do we do.....

A number of our Governors have link roles where they come into school during the year and monitor the progress that is being made in specific areas, for example the progress of all pupils across the school, the impact of new curriculum initiatives such as Talk for Writing, Cornerstones and Cursive handwriting, the progress of pupil premium children and children with Special educational needs. Below some of our Link Governors have provided feedback from their monitoring visits.

Ruth Dillon—Chair of Curriculum and Standards Committee and Link Governor for SEND

Hello, my name is Ruth Dillon.. I am a Local Authority Governor and the current Chair of the Curriculum and Standards Committee. I have been part of the Yenton team of Governors since November 2016. My professional background has always been in education working in Primary schools for the majority of my career with responsibility for pupils with Special Needs and Disabilities. In fact, I worked at Yenton Infant school many years ago and both my children attended Yenton so it feels a bit like coming home to be part of the Governors here.

There is always an analysis and discussion of school data at Curriculum and Standards Committee meetings so that a check on progress of all groups of pupils within our school is made and any area where expected progress is not being achieved is queried. This information will then be used for follow-up discussion and visits to school by other Link Governors. We review policies linked to our area of concern and the Assessment Policy and Accessibility Plan have been approved this term.

My link role within the team of Governors is SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) so I can bring a wealth of personal understanding and awareness to this position and support the relevant staff. In addition I have attended the relevant training on the role of the SEND Link governor. I meet with the SENCo, Mrs Murray, regularly to make sure that children, young people and families are being supported by the right services from in and outside of school. I also visit the school, observe what happens in classrooms and meet with class teachers, support staff and pupils. Information gathered is shared so that the whole governing body is aware of how special educational needs are being supported in the school and how well this support is working. The governors will challenge, support and advise the head teacher if appropriate provision isn't being made. My current focus is the SEND information available on the school website and the embedding of the Individual Target Plans now used for SEND pupils.

Elaine Jackson—Parent Liaison Link Governor

As Parent Link Governor, it is my responsibility to talk to parents and report any concerns about the school that you may have. Particularly anything that you don't feel you can raise with the Head Teacher or other members of staff. I'd like to thank parents for taking the time to talk to Ruth Dillon and myself at the parents' evenings and for giving your feedback on the school. The Post-it board is very useful! I'd also like to thank Miles, in Year 3, for his help in distributing the paper and pens to parents whilst they were waiting for their appointments. There were many comments from parents that the school has a lovely family atmosphere. Overall the feedback is very positive but all issues you raise are reported to the Head Teacher and the Governing Board for action and response. I am usually available at parents' evenings and in the school playground from time to time if you have anything to discuss. You can also contact me via the gov@yenton.bham.sch.uk governing board email address.

What do we do

Cllr Gareth Moore — Link Governor for British Values

My name is Cllr Gareth Moore and I am a co-opted governor at Yenton Primary School, having previously been appointed by Birmingham City Council. I am also the link governor for British Values, a role which I have undertaken training for and which is one of the priorities in our School Improvement Plan. It is important that children at Yenton understand British Values to help prepare them for and give them a better understanding of adult life in modern Britain and it is my role to ensure that British Values are incorporated into the school day.

As part of this, I have recently met with Mrs Berriman and the School Council to hear what the children think about British Values and the issues that matter to them at Yenton. I also discussed with Mrs Berriman the 'No Outsiders' programme, which will help children learn to tolerate and respect each other regardless of our differences or protected characteristics.

Vicki Popplewell—Link Governor Safeguarding

I am a co-opted governor and, as well as Chair of the Governing Board, I am the link governor for safeguarding. The role of the safeguarding governor is key to understanding the effectiveness of safeguarding for every child in the school by monitoring all child protection policies and procedures. To enable me to carry out this role, I have undertaken external training on Safeguarding, Safer Recruitment and the Home Office PREVENT training.

I regularly meet with Mrs Berriman throughout the school year to monitor safeguarding procedures and processes. In addition, we spend time discussing what the school can do to teach children to stay safe through the use of focused weeks and the school curriculum.

The key aspects of this role include:

- Supporting the work of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Berriman);
- Understanding the requirements of safeguarding guidance and legislation;
- Checking that the school is compliant with statutory guidance and that there is a consistent approach to safeguarding across the whole school;
- Checking that all staff and governor training is up to date and that all adults are clear about their roles and responsibilities;
- Making sure that there are effective systems in place to keep our most vulnerable children safe;
- Ensuring that the school's curriculum for safeguarding reflects the risks to all of our pupils. For example –is e-safety taught across the school, stranger danger, NSPCC PANTS, mental health awareness, anti-bullying;
- Ensuring that safer recruitment processes are in place for all adults working and volunteering in our school and that our Single Central Record is compliant;
- Talking to children when I am in school about safeguarding, what they understand about feeling and staying safe; and
- Reporting back to the Governing Board about how effective safeguarding procedures are.

The safety of our children is paramount to everyone involved in our school. We strive to ensure that we provide our children with a safe, caring and happy school environment, as well as ensuring that when our children leave Yenton Primary they know how to keep themselves safe.

As you will have seen from our recent Ofsted, the Inspector reported that there is a strong culture of

If you require any further information on the Governing Board, please visit the school's website
<http://www.yenton.bham.sch.uk/governors.htm>