

Governors' Annual Statement of Key Issues for 2015 – 2016

Governors have discussed the Academies programme at several meetings and had discussions with the Director of the Diocesan Board of Education. At a meeting of the Full Governing Body held on 25th January 2016 it was agreed in principle that Calow Primary should pursue academy conversion with the Derby Diocesan Academy Trust. This followed exploratory talks with Netherthorpe Academy, in addition to the Trust. The 'Convert to Academy registration of interest' was submitted to the Department for Education on 16th March 2016. The Derby Diocesan Academy Trust was informed of the Governors' decision to 'academise' with them in 2017.

Governors have been responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the School Improvement Plan. Regular reviews have enabled Governors to consider the impact of the Plan in four areas linked to Standards and Attainment; Quality of Education; Management and Efficiency; and Climate. Governors have monitored associated action plans in each area of the curriculum and further improving school attendance. Following Governors' approval, the contract with NAHT Aspire was signed by the Chair of Governors on 19th November 2015. The three years' programme is about leadership, learning environment, assessment for learning, pupil and family support. It is about whole school long-term improvement. Work has commenced with advisers from NAHT Aspire and Governors have considered progress reports.

The Governors have received information about progress of pupils. This has included end of key stage assessment results and target setting details. Governors have considered the impact of expenditure on raising attainment and ascertained what has been needed to address areas for development. Governors approved several days of Highbrake Consultancy support to develop further teaching and learning and used details to inform their decision making. Implementing an assessment tool (Frog Assessment) for monitoring progress has been a key issue.

Safeguarding has featured prominently. All Governors received Safeguarding training this year. Information on e-safety has been received regularly. Schools were informed that all Governors now require a Disclosure and Barring Service check. Advice states that an application for an Enhanced DBS check needs to be made for any governor appointed from 1st April 2016, within 21 days of their appointment. Any existing Governors will require an Enhanced DBS check by 1st September 2016. Governors at Calow Primary agreed to complete the process ahead of the deadline.

Governors have received information about extremism in schools. This includes practical advice to governing bodies, Headteachers and school staff to help understand their role under the new Prevent duty and how to access support. Governors have approved policies and documentation to fulfil their duties and ensure the safety of all. Governors have also considered their duties in relation to mandatory reporting of Female Genital Mutilation.

Health and Safety has been a continual item on the agenda of Governors' meetings, including outcomes from H/S inspections of the School premises. Calow Primary was awarded a grant of £9,873 for a community garden. Governors considered tenders and approved work to be carried out. Governors also considered and approved the KS1 toilet refurbishment project and seven replacement fire doors being fitted by Derbyshire County Council.

A number of policies have been considered and approved: Calculations; Marking and Feedback; Separated Parents; Substance Misuse Policy and Guidance; Acceptable Use of I.T, the Internet and Electronic Communication; Confidentiality and Sensitivity; Equal Opportunities. Governors have reviewed the complaints procedure.

Governors have received information about staffing and made decisions accordingly. These include management of a teacher's long term absence; professional development of staff; Headteacher and teachers'

performance management; pay progression; staff induction; and arrangements for the teaching of pupils in two classes in Key Stage Two. Governors appointed new mid-day supervisors and teachers.

The Governors set the annual budget and monitor expenditure. The Schools Financial Value Standard was completed and returned to the Local Authority. The impact of expenditure for Pupil Premium and Sport Premium is reviewed and reported to parents. Governors are responsible for ensuring Best Value and have applied those principles when determining the purchase of resources or services e.g. grounds maintenance; caretaking and cleaning contract and school resources. During the year Governors explored arrangements for starting a breakfast club from September 2016 (including securing some funding). Benchmarking has taken place to see how Calow Primary is performing in comparison with other schools. The Private School Funds and Journeys Account were externally audited and no issues identified by the auditor.

The Governing Body appointed three Scrutiny Governors to carry out scrutiny in three areas during the academic year: Mathematics; Use of Sport Premium; and Assessment. The Scrutiny Governors have monitored progress in each of these areas that include classroom visits, learning walks, meetings with staff and pupils and reported information to Governors for discussion and decisions.

Impact of the Governing Body: Governors consider that they have fulfilled all their statutory duties and their impact has been good. Governors have undertaken training and regularly review their own performance. Governors have completed a matrix of skills self-evaluation e.g. Financial Competencies completed in February 2016. This has been used to ensure Governors are members of appropriate committees and fulfil suitable roles. Governors partake in School self-evaluation in conjunction with a School Improvement Partner from the Local Authority. The annual School Improvement Review Record confirms that Governors have a good understanding of the School's developmental state. The OfSTED Inspection of 2015 said that, "the school benefits from the support of an effective governing body. Governors are diligent in evaluating the quality of their own work and engage in regular training to enhance their impact on the school's performance."