

## **Annual Statement of the Governing Board 2016/17**

Our purpose is to work with parents to give their children the best start in life.

We aim for children to become confident, happy, independent learners who enjoy coming to school; playing and learning alongside their peers.

We are a caring community – and believe that by teaching children to care for themselves they will, in time, learn to care for themselves and others. Ditton Nursery School is also a learning community where children and adults learn together – finding out about the world through visits, visitors and new experiences.

We believe that every day for a child is new and will never come back therefore each day is theirs to enjoy, to learn, to grow and to develop.

We aim to ensure that through the many experiences we provide every child can fulfil their true potential and make progress in their learning.

To achieve their objectives governors too must continually evaluate the role they have to played within the life of the school, and publish relevant information to all interested parties.

This statement is part of that evaluation and publication process.

- **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**

Governors are responsible for setting the school's strategic framework, identifying priorities for school improvement and monitoring progress towards these goals.

We are also responsible for setting a school ethos of high expectations of behaviour, progress and attainment of all pupils and of conduct staff and governors.

### **Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and it's pupils, and the performance management of staff**

Governors must provide challenge to the school and hold the Headteacher and senior leaders to account for improving the quality of teaching and learning and school performance. We do this through questioning and through regular monitoring and analysis of data on children's performance and progress. Governors hold the headteacher to account for the performance management of teachers. (The headteacher's performance management is conducted by the governors.)

### **Overseeing financial performance of the school.**

Governors look at financial statements and ask questions to ensure that the school makes efficient use of its budget and provides best value for money.

Each year the governing body considers:

- Standards of attainment and progress of all children
- Attendance and punctuality
- Staffing
- Finance
- Health and safety
- Regular review of the school development plan and the school's self-evaluation

**During the 2016/17 school year, the governors have in particular focused on:**

- Monitoring and performance management
- The use of pupil premium and its impact on pupils
- School improvement through data
- Support around budget and finance input in this current climate with extra-vigilance re budget due to the new funding formula ensuring future sufficiency.
- The ongoing impact the stress level & wellbeing of the headteacher & staff as an executive head model is being established within staff development.
- On-going work with the federation to keep the process moving forward, challenging each setting to make sure they are fully committed.

The following are some of the ways in which the governing board impact on the strategic management of the school:

### **School development plan (SDP)**

Governors work co-operatively with the Headteacher and senior management in the writing and monitoring the school development plan. The school development plan sets aims for the school. The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SDP is set out with clear aims the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these aims and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SDP is monitored and reviewed termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to governors within the headteacher's report.

### **Governor visits**

Governors are invited to visit the school as part of their link governor role, where they monitor specific issues.

### **Data analysis**

Data is made available to governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the Headteacher thus the governors are able to benchmark their data against local and national standards. Governors expectations of the data are high and data is closely scrutinised. Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all areas of the EYFS, and on the effective use of pupil premium.

### **Policies**

Governors review all relevant policies on a programmed basis 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 and the Local Authority recommended list.

### **Governor meeting attendance**

Governor attendance has been of a very good level, with any absences having been fully explained accepted and approved by the governing body. There are no causes for concern at the level of commitment shown by any member of the governing body.

### **Review**

The governing board, the Headteacher and all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school. This was recognised by OFSTED in their June 2014 inspection following which the school was graded as "GOOD" in all areas. The school continues to be successful with ongoing improvements in pupil progress and attainment which reflects a whole school drive to consistently raise standards. We look forward and are very excited to continue to progress with the federation with Warrington road nursery school.

### **Future plans for 2017/18**

In line with the school development plan, the focus for the strategic development of the school involves the following areas for development:

- Ensuring accuracy of data on entry with a focus on moderation.
- A focus on federating with Warrington road nursery school.
- Continue to Increase the number of children in the school.
- Establishing links and working relationships with the 2 other Maintained nursery schools in Halton.