



MORTIMER PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNOR STATEMENT

The Governing Board of Mortimer Primary School works with the Head Teacher to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement. The core functions of the Governing Board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school making sure its funding is well spent.

Key issues that have faced the Governing Board during 2019-2020

COVID-19

The start of 2020 brought an unprecedented challenge to education with the COVID19 pandemic. In March, schools were closed to the majority of pupils and open only to 'Key worker' children as outlined by the Government. Staff found themselves having to adapt to deliver education at a distance. The Chair of Governors has taken part in weekly conference calls with the Local Authority. The Governing Board has supported the Head Teacher and Senior Management and staff throughout the closure and lockdown period.

Governors have held a virtual meeting to consider the expansion of the opening of the school and to approve the relevant Risk Assessments implemented to ensure the safe continuation of teaching following the easing of restrictions imposed during the Coronavirus lockdown. The Governing Board supported the Head Teacher in decision making around:

- Maximum numbers of children who could safely return to the partial opening
- Start and end times of the day.
- Lunchtime arrangements.
- Cleaning measures
- Staff and pupil welfare checks
- Safeguarding of pupils

School Development Plan

The Governing Board continues to support the Head Teacher and Senior Management Team in the monitoring of the School Development Plan (SDP). The School Development Plan sets aims for the forthcoming 3 years. The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and review meetings with subject leaders. The SDP is set out with clear development targets and key tasks which will be completed in order to measure outcomes. The SDP is monitored and reviewed regularly. Key priorities for 2019-2010 were identified as:

- To raise the profile of reading across the school promoting enjoyment and an improved understanding of a range of texts.
- To successfully implement Vipers reading approach across the school.

- To ensure targeted reading interventions are timetabled throughout the school.
- To continue to promote STEM throughout the school to increase the enjoyment and science capital of all pupils.
- Ensuring progression of skills and recording.
- To be fully prepared for the new OFSTED framework September 2019.
- To ensure RSE is embedded prior to new legislation – September 2020.
- To audit the intent, implementation and impact of all curriculum enhancement activities to ensure quality provision and its subsequent impact upon raising the quality of education.
- To ensure all staff have a clear understanding of each activities intentions.

Governor visits

Link governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP. These visits are considered a valuable opportunity for governors to be able to work closely with staff members. The timetabled visits take place once every four terms. Activity in this respect during 2019 - 2020 has included

- Meetings with subject leaders to discuss the impact of the new assessment procedures on current practice.
- Teacher responsible for Safeguarding and Attendance presented to Governors at Autumn termly meeting
- Teacher responsible for PHCE presented to Governors at spring termly meeting.
- Link governor for STEM visited a bridge building activity in the Spring Term.
- Link governor for RE met with subject lead.

Data analysis

Data is made available to Governing Board through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the head teacher. Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium. With the cancelling of statutory testing in 2020, Governors will be placing scrutiny on teacher assessment.

Policies

The Governing Board reviews all relevant policies at appropriate intervals 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 statutory policy list and the Local Authority recommended list.

Finance

The impact of the governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous.

Assessment of the impact of the Governing Board on the school during 2019-2020

The Governing Board bring a wide variety of expertise to the school to help ensure the school is moving forward and continually seeks improvement to the provision of education at our school. Taking a holistic outlook when considering the development of all our pupils and working closely with the Head Teacher, Senior Management Team and all members of staff, the Governing Board is constantly striving to improve and develop the school in all areas.

The relationship between the Governing Board, the Senior Management Team, and staff is based on trust, respect and support. The results of which are outstanding education for the children attending our school. This continues to serve as a highly successful model with continued improvement in pupil progress and attainment across the school.

The curriculum is continuously monitored to ensure a seamless transition between key stages and, ultimately, improve outcomes for the children. New resources have been purchased, where necessary, to enhance delivery of educational themes or specific skills. Staff meeting time has been allocated to ensure all areas are appropriately resourced and plans adjusted.

A Teaching School is considered an outstanding school capable of working with others to provide high-quality training and development to new and experienced school staff. They are part of the government's plan to give schools a central role in raising standards by developing a self-improving and sustainable school-led system. Mortimer Primary is proud to be one of a very small number of primary schools designated by government to be a primary Teaching School.

This year has seen further development of the Teaching School and an ever wider range of educational sessions for schools across the borough. So far this year, the Teaching School has delivered training courses to ITT students on the teaching of greater depth mathematics, reading, writing, science, PE, dance, British values, communicating with parents and working with outside agencies. Recruitment of new students for September 2020 has continued throughout lockdown. All places are now filled.

The preparation and delivery of these sessions along with the advanced professional development borne out of the Teaching School, is a fantastic accolade for Mortimer Primary. It is also beneficial for the development of our staff and helps to promote further advances in the outstanding teaching practice at school. All of this additional work ultimately benefits the children by opening up new opportunities to learn using new techniques and ideas and continuing to make being a pupil at Mortimer Primary, a fun and exciting prospect and by supporting young children in their progress towards becoming confident, caring and responsible adults.