

GOVERNOR'S IMPACT STATEMENT

2013/2014

The Governors at Barrow 1618 continue to take a very active and hands on interest in the school and 2013/2014 has been a year of embedding, improving and expanding in many if not all areas of school life. Whilst the delivery of an outstanding, inspiring and liberating education remains at the forefront of everyone's minds, the governors also work tirelessly in the background to ensure that the infrastructure is exactly what it needs to be to support this delivery.

This is seen particularly through the roles of the HR committee, finance committee and Health and Safety and premises committees.

We have seen over the year the embedding of the new head teacher and the policies and practices he has brought into the school, together with adverts and interviews for two new teachers and two new teaching assistants and the expansion of the school into a fourth classroom. The link governor for staff carried out satisfaction and stress surveys over the year, all governors are now child protection trained and many also undertook link governor training. Three governors have retired, and three further governors have been appointed over the year. The new governors induction pack has been reviewed and updated.

The governors have continued to support the school in terms of site development and governors have project managed the delivery of the new school hall which opened in the Summer term and together with the Head Teacher organised for the kitting out of the new kitchens and delivery of school meals on site starting in the Autumn term 2014. There has been the introduction of a fourth classroom which needed adapting and upgrading and there has been further development of the outdoor learning areas and governors have supported in the supply and delivery of ongoing maintenance and health and safety improvements – such as work to the ramp, lock on the kitchen door, staff room window etc.

Governors have carried out a review of risk assessments and contributing in particular to the e safety and lone worker risk assessments, they have carried out an audit of the caretakers monitoring books and the accident report book. They have reviewed and updated the schools accessibility plan and carried out an audit of renewable energy production and energy consumption on site.

The finance committee has looked to ensure extra resources for staff training following the issues raised in the OFSTED inspection during the summer term, and extra resources for the current year six cohort who have particular areas of need amongst them. A seven year budget was put together to look at the pros and cons of expanding the school PAN so that we could open a fourth classroom and ensure smaller class sizes throughout the school for the future. The school audit function was also re-tendered and contract awarded for outside auditing and the role of Jenny Williams further embedded in school. Not only has she ensured that all of the controls highlighted by last years audit as being necessary, are now in place, but she also prints off monthly reports for

consideration by governors together with the Head Teacher which has also formed part of assisting him in increasing his financial awareness and skill sets. A substantial carry forward was seen at the end of the 2013/2014 academic year which it has been a pleasure to be able to use in part to reward teachers performance with salary increases and bonuses.

The School underwent their first OFSTED inspection this year and all of the governors rallied around the Headteacher and offered considerable support to the school over a challenging period, the governors were perceived by outside inspection to merit, together with the head teacher, a “ good” for leadership and management.

Whilst tracking and monitoring progress is now firmly embedded in school, there was a lack of existing data, being such a new school, on which to base judgements. The governors assisted the Head teacher in amending and updating the School Development Plan and Self Evaluation in the light of the OFSTED inspection together with the Post Ofsted action plan. They also decided as a result of the inspection that it would be helpful to the school if a school data link governor was created. This is now in place.

In terms of the curriculum, governors continue to challenge the head teacher through probing questions to him on his termly head teachers report, and in particular the literacy and numeracy link governors have been involved with subject specific action plans, monitoring and accompanying the head on lesson observations.

The governors have continued to attend committee and full governors meetings throughout the year, link governor visits, and although not every Monday, most of the term time Mondays see either a senior management meeting or site development action group meeting as part of the continuing commitment to drive forward progress.

The governors particularly wanted to help and ensure that the school engaged more with the community and collaborative working this year to enhance learning experiences for children. Whilst there is still some way to go in the development of this, other schools have been invited to share in training with governors and Much Wenlock school governors joined those of Barrow 1618 at “link governor” training, two governors attended the SSGC on behalf of Barrow 1618, and three governors attended the Academies Show in Birmingham. Approaches were made to the staff at Abberley school with regard to joint training sessions on outdoor learning which they are also developing, and to the head of the nursery at Abberley who will act as a consultant on early years provision to support this potential lack of knowledge in the governing body.

Governors were involved in Post Ofsted meetings with parents, and in consulting with parents about the delivery of a fourth classroom. Governors, staff, parents and children all came together to raise a fantastic amount of money for the K12 Riding for the Disabled challenge back in the early Spring; and the children went straight from that to raise another 4 figure sum for various charities in their “lent project”. Governors challenged the lack of representation on Schools Forum in

Shropshire for Barrow 1618 as a Free School, particularly in the light of extra contingency for in year high needs which had been shared between other schools, but Barrow 1618 had not been included in those considered. It has now been clarified that Barrow 1618 can attend schools forum meetings and will next year receive a contingency payment from the “in year high needs contingency pot”

The school itself has been enjoying the concept of learning outside the classroom with a fantastic number of trips – they have been involved with Lightmoor and Birchfield schools for football netball and rugby, and had science lessons in the lab at Birchfield with use of their equipment, swimming lessons have continued at Thomas Telford school, and some also attend a maths club there. There have been residential trips, campouts under the stars and many other activity days as well as giving back to the community with carol singing at a local day care centre for the elderly, the Christmas play in the church at Barrow, and partaking in the harvest festival and other church services at Broseley. Some children also attended Anti bullying Ambassador training at Abraham Darby with other schools. This list is by no means exhaustive but shows that an encouraging start has been made in terms of the outdoor learning brief and collaborative working. Through governors as well, there has been an introduction to the ICT curriculum leader at the Charlton school in Wellington and preliminary discussions with the Chandos School in Birmingham with regard to building closer links with them over the coming year.