

Impact of Governance statement 2016/17 for Fournalenesend Primary School

The governing body has continued its rigorous program of monitoring visits, support, challenge and partnership working with the senior leaders of the school this year.

Ofsted visited the school in April and stated that

'The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the previous inspection. You expect the highest quality of teaching from staff and firmly believe that every pupil has the potential to excel at school. Your ability to identify the right priorities and provide appropriate support and challenge has raised standards.

Governors whom I spoke to were knowledgeable, well informed and displayed a steadfast dedication and passion for the school. They have a precise and accurate understanding of the school's performance. Leaders and governors use assessment information effectively to plan, monitor and refine their actions to improve key aspects of the school's work. This is evident in the swift action taken to improve pupils' spelling, punctuation and grammar skills.

Your vision and school values lie at the heart of your approach and underpin the actions of those who work and learn at Fournalenesend Community Primary.. '

There have been some changes to the board of governors this year, with new recruits and members leaving.

All governors have attended training and are continuing this next term with a full day of safeguarding training already booked in.

The impact of governance is set out below.

Ensuring Clarity of Vision, Ethos and Strategic Direction

- 1) Governors have continued to attend County strategy meetings to consider the Academisation program and consult with the Head.
- 2) Governors visit the school regularly to monitor the effectiveness of policies, ethos and use of school values.
- 3) The local profile of the school has been improved by the introduction of new signage and flags.
- 4) Governors continued to review and update all statutory policies and established a clear policy review program.

In order to further improve in this area governors should continue to monitor the County wide developments in MATs and meet with the new RSC as soon as possible to establish a possible new strategic direction of the RSC.

Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils

- 1) Governors continued to monitor school self-evaluation document, providing the head with a valuable sounding board and amending judgements. Governors monitoring visits provided additional evidence.
- 2) Governors held the head to account through a robust performance management process. Governors also ensured that staff performance management targets are linked to key school priority areas for improvement and that the process is equitable and robust.

In order to further improve this areas governors should revisit data systems and ensure that their understanding is sound enough to provide appropriate challenge.

Overseeing the financial performance of school & ensuring the money is well spent

- 1) All financial policies and procedures have been reviewed, updated and ratified by the Resources committee.
- 2) Staffing structures have been reviewed by the Resources committee; resulting in a structure that is both cost effective and has a positive impact on pupil outcomes.
- 3) Pupil premium spend is closely monitored and the impact on pupil outcomes is scrutinised.
- 4) The governors have been able to set a balanced budget.

Effective governance practice

- 1) The GB two committee structure continues to work effectively.
- 2) Governors have been recruited to fill skills gaps.
- 3) Role descriptors and terms of reference continue to be used to ensure governors are clear of their roles, both individually and on committees.
- 4) The clerk has a clear job description and has been performance managed. She provides invaluable advice and support for the chair.
- 5) A thorough and robust system of monitoring visits has been developed to monitor the progress made against the school development plan. All governors have made visits and reports have been written. The findings of the reports have been fed into a governor monitoring strategy and the impact of governance has been noted.

Safeguarding

The Single Central Record has been fully updated with regular governor monitoring visits. It has also been externally audited with further recommendations for improvement being addressed.

The Section 175 has been reviewed and submitted for 2017

Tier 2 training has been delivered to all governors.

Reviewed e safety policy

Governor monitoring visits

Governors have visited the school to monitor the following areas:

- Pupil premium spend
- Celebration assembly
- Single central record

- High expectations
- Values
- Use of PE grant
- Performance management
- Safeguarding
- SPAG
- Maths
- Attendance
- Use of assessment
- Immersion zone
- Behaviour policy
- Health and safety site visit

Some of the 'impacts' of these visits are listed below. To read all impacts please access each individual report form on the school website.

Immersion zone - The immersion zone is fully developed and appears to be an inspiring location for learning to take place.

Values - This monitoring visit indicated that high expectations are met through our values, which are known by everyone and are linked to all that we do. The school uses many techniques for integrating and rewarding the use of these

Performance management - Staff performance management forms are SMART, linked to the SDP, meet the July 2016 Standard for professional development and will develop middle and senior leadership skills.

CPD will have a direct positive impact on outcomes for pupils and staff.

Pupil premium- Evaluated 2015/16 data and compared with 2016/17 planned expenditure reports (both available on school website). Evaluated current recommendation for pupil premium spending and impact, Monitored staff use of SPTO.

2015/16 impact of PP spend was good, our pp pupils make better progress than their peers both within the school and nationally. New spending plans include new initiatives and should also have a good impact.

Pupil premium - Children in receipt of PP have progressed well in the Autumn Term and a variety of interventions are in place to ensure progress continues. There has been a focus on the reading quest to encourage all groups of children to read more across a range of genres. The school is monitoring pupil premium parental engagement.

Safeguarding - Reassured that all is in place and prompt action has been taken to address any changes or challenges.

17th Nov 2016 The workload for administering the SCR this has become much more manageable now that the system is up and running.

Excellent practice is now in place and the 4 hours per week is about right to maintain this.

10th Feb 2017 evidences that school delivers a high standard of online safety education to pupils throughout the year groups

High expectations - The joint review of SPTO allowed me to see directly how it is used on a day to day basis and gain an insight into the deployments of support to best impact on outcomes for pupils.

White Rose is having a significant impact on deeper learning, providing sample questions and problem solving. Pupils are improving their ability to unpick why answers are right and wrong.

13th July 2017 – focus on maths

The book review showed in action points discusses and included the greater depth and the progress across the school. Equally the books, viewing the text books and cross curricular links you could see first hand how maths can be taken outside of the maths lessons and made relevant to the children.

13th July 2017 – focus on SPAG

actions taken through the year to improve progress e.g. move to kung fu panda, punctuation to powerpoint, challenged as to why and there was evidence in SPTO and lesson obs. New power point came following professional dialogue and selection of new resources which the teachers trialled first.

In summary

The school governance is strong and secure. The school received a secure 'Good' Ofsted Judgment and governors need to continue to provide challenge and support. In order to improve next year governors need to ensure that they recruit two more members to provide enough external scrutiny, additional support and strength in numbers.