



Governors' End of Year Report – July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to be reporting to you on the work of the school governors over another year of significant change.

The most significant visible change for us has been the additional playground space. It is thanks to the parents who were with us back in 2014, who did so much to agitate and alert our local authorities, that we have this wonderful facility. We governors worked with parents over that time, and we are very grateful for all they did. We are also grateful to the residents of Clifton Court who have agreed a land swap with WSCC, losing just two parking spaces in the process so that we have access to the former pub site.

Funding for the playground has come from various sources including West Sussex County Council, the Church of England Diocese of Chichester, savings built up by the school over recent years, thanks to careful stewardship by school leaders, and from sources accessed by the governors, including the Heene School Trust, whose managing trustees are the leadership of St Botolph's Church. St Matthew's Church has also contributed. Heene Helping Hands and the school staff have played their part with fundraising for additional storage and equipment – and that fundraising continues so that the area can be well equipped.



Perhaps less obvious than the playground, but certainly no less important, have been the health challenges faced by our staff. We are delighted and grateful that Mrs MacGovern is back with us after a lengthy absence. Mrs Ferguson and our other Senior Leaders did a great job during her absence, and the governors want to record our gratitude to them.

Besides Mrs MacGovern, a few of our teaching assistants have suffered lengthy illness this year. We have missed them, and finding cover for them has been a challenge. Despite financial constraints we at Heene have managed to keep a large number of teaching assistants. The school carefully monitors their effectiveness in class and in small group work, and we believe this provision to be money well spent for the benefit of our children.

The Governance Board has met six times this year, plus we've had an in-school training session on understanding school performance data. We've invited staff to brief us in our meetings, and we've made a number of visits to the school to look into aspects of its running. Our work comes under the three headings of strategy, holding the Headteacher to account, and finance. The day to day running of the school is in the capable hands of our Head and her team.

Committees have met to deal with Admissions and Attendance; Finance; Learning and Community (a combination of curriculum and parental involvement); Premises, Health and Safety; and Staffing. Governors have been involved in teacher recruitment. In addition we have had a Headteacher performance management panel and a pay panel. During the year we have carried out an audit of our skills and several governors have undertaken training to equip them for their roles.

We currently have ten of the twelve governors provided for in our constitution. The five from St Matthew's and St Botolph's churches are known as foundation governors. Both churches are without priests to lead them. If and when these are appointed they are likely to fill the vacant slots. The other five are our Headteacher, a staff governor, a local authority governor and two parent governors. Only three of us were governors before Mrs MacGovern joined us in September 2015, so we are a pretty new bunch – but we are eager to learn and to serve the school. Please see the school website for more information about our governors. You can contact any of the governors via Mrs Hunt the Clerk to the Governors - clerk@heeneprimary.co.uk

Thank you for your part in helping the school to be what it is.

Peter Parish (Chair)
On behalf of governing body



Mr Peter Parish
Chair of Governors



Mrs Freda Wimble
Vice-Chair of
Governors



Mrs Jo MacGovern
Headteacher



Mrs Laura Anderson
Parent Governor



Miss Jo Beer
Staff Governor



Mrs Kate Cooper
Foundation
Governor



Mrs Jenny Ferguson
Associate Member



Mrs Diane Le Mare
Foundation
Governor



Mrs Jo McCulloch
Parent Governor



Miss Angela Pursey
Associate Governor



Mr Dave Robertson
Local Authority
Governor



Mr Trevor Wimble
Foundation
Governor