



## Governor Newsletter March 2018

### **Current Focus**

As Spring approaches, the Governing body of Shirley School is focussing its attention on the important task of recruiting a new Head for September 2018. Governors are determined to continue to steer and guide the school, in its ongoing journey to offer the best support and education for Shirley children, their families and the local community.

There is so much to be proud of within our inclusive school. Recently, for example, Shirley Primary gained the EQualities Award for the third time, having been the first school in the country to attain it. The Director of the EQualities Award, Dr. Chris Derrington, declares in her letter: *What a great role model Shirley Primary School is! Each portfolio just seems to get better and better as you constantly seek out ways to demonstrate your commitment and further improve your policies and practices. It's so inspirational - thank you!*

### **School Priorities**

Each year the school puts together a detailed School Improvement and Development Plan, which lists the school's priorities for the year and how these priorities are to be met.

Governors regularly visit the school, in order to check whether appropriate steps are being taken to meet these school priorities. They do this by; talking to pupils and teachers, visiting lessons to experience the learning taking place and talking to subject leaders.

To briefly summarise- the priorities governors are monitoring this year include:

- Making sure teachers are well supported in their role of offering high-quality teaching to pupils at the school. This includes monitoring the workload and well being of staff.
- Supporting vulnerable pupils in their learning behaviour. This involves using positive growth mindset language throughout the school and being aware of issues that might impact on children's mental health and wellbeing.
- Making sure pupils are aware of their targets in their learning journey and what they need to do to reach their learning goals.
- Tracking progress of all children in all year groups, trying to close any gaps in progress between different groups of children.
- Raising attainment of Shirley children so that it is in line with national expectations.

### **Importance of Parents' Views**

The governing body is always keen to hear the views of Shirley parents and carers. In this aim, four governors attended the two Autumn Parent Consultation meetings and spoke with as many parents and carers as possible. Governors received wide-ranging comments. These included many feeling the school is a kind and inclusive school. It was wonderful to hear positive comments such as: 'This is a kind school. Kindness goes a long way. It is the most important thing.'

Governors also listened to concerns from parents and carers and shared them with the senior leaders in the school, who have reported back to governors about how they are going to try and address the issues raised. For example, there were several changes to the parent consultations in the Spring which improved the timings of the evening.

The Governors would also like to emphasise, the importance of all parents and carers being good role models to their children when waiting at the school gates, speaking kindly to each other and not smoking or littering by the school.

### **New PTA- Friends of Shirley- working for the school and its community**

The school is privileged to have committed parents and carers working hard to fundraise for the school and bring together the school's vibrant community. Team Shirley has recently been revamped and has now emerged as Friends of Shirley. As a team, Friends of Shirley are aware that different people can bring varying skills and time to the school and all support is valued and welcomed. Keep an eye out for Friends of Shirley meeting dates and events.

*All are warmly welcomed!*