

## **Governing Body of Thorndown Primary School**

### **Annual Governance Statement**

All schools in England have a Governing Body which is responsible for overseeing many of the strategic decisions of the school. Regulations define three core functions consistent with the strategic role of the Governing Body. These are to:

- set the vision and strategic direction of school;
- hold the Headteacher to account for its educational performance; and
- ensure financial resources are well spent.

The Governing Body works in close partnership with the Headteacher, staff and the local authority. Whilst the Headteacher is, of course, responsible for the day to day running of the school, the governors are involved with such things as staffing, curriculum, school buildings and finance. It ensures the school functions well and maintains the proper range of academic and social objectives.

### **Our Governing Body**

#### Local Authority Governors

- Frank Newton (Chair)
- Christine Curtis (Vice Chair)
- Debbie Townsend
- Steve Mitchell

#### Parent Governors

- Carolyn Jepson
- Jane Ainscow
- Paul Bullough
- Paul Mumford
- Steve Mortimer
- Vacancy
- Yasmin Finch

#### Community Governors

- Andrea Cliff
- Rob Jagger
- Peter Smith
- Vacancy

#### Staff Governors

- Vicci Godbold
- Matthew Sweeney
- Helen Cooper
- Claire Gerrard

Much of the work of the Governing Body is completed by committees. At Thorndown Primary, we have the following committees:

- Finance and Premises (including Health & Safety);
- Learning and Development; and
- Personnel and Salaries

### **Work of Finance and Premises (including Health & Safety) Committee**

The committee has delegated powers to carry out specific tasks, including approving the formal budget plan each year. The committee must also ensure that the school meets Financial Management Standards. As part of its work this year it has been very involved with the development of the new building, agreeing a new maintenance strategy and monitoring health and safety arrangements.

### **Work of Learning and Development Committee**

This committee has delegated powers to monitor, evaluate and review the implementation of the curriculum and other school policies. As part of its work this year it has been very involved with the introduction of the new national curriculum in September 2014. The committee also monitors the work of the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and the SEND policy. Governor visits are organised to collect evidence and agree judgements for school self-evaluation, and to establish processes for tracking pupils and their performance data, and to measure the impact of pupil premium

### **Work of Personnel and Salaries Committee**

This committee has delegated powers to review and monitor all Personnel/Pay related Policies, ensuring inclusion in regard to gender, social disadvantage, race equality, disability discrimination, religion, sexuality & age. The committee ensures that all staff safeguarding checks are complete and up-to-date, and has established procedures for the annual review of performance management policy of all staff.

### **Re-constitution**

In November 2014 the Governing Body complied with the latest Department for Education Guidance, to reconstitute under the 2012 School Governance Regulations. This decision meant it allowed us to change the numbers and types of governors we have and to appoint more people on the basis of the skills they could bring to the Governing Body.

The Governing Body now consists of ??? people:

- The Headteacher;
- One elected staff governor;
- One appointed local authority governor;
- ??? elected parent governors; and
- ??? co-opted governors.

The standard term of office for a governor is four years. The Chair and Vice-chair are elected annually at the first meeting of the academic year.

The Chair of the Governing Body is Mr Frank Newton, who can be contacted via the school office.