



Beechwood Primary School

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Annual Statement of Governance 2017/18

In line with the Government's requirements for all governing bodies, the four core strategic functions of the Beechwood Primary School Interim Executive Board (IEB) are:

- To support and challenge the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for children.
- To set the vision and strategic direction of the school.
- To hold the Headteacher to account for the school's educational performance.
- To ensure financial resources are well spent.

Governance Arrangements

The Beechwood Primary School Governing Body was replaced in February 2018 by an Interim Executive Board, consisting of 7 members. Of the 7 IEB members, 6 have previously been a Chair of Governors, while the 7th board member is a serving Infant School Headteacher. The board brings a wealth of experience to Beechwood, over 90 years of school governance in total.

The IEB meets at least once every 3 weeks to set the strategic direction of the school and, provide a singular focus on rapid school improvement. The skills and experience of the IEB has facilitated the creating of 7 mini-teams that look at aspects of school provision, including:

1. Safeguarding
2. Premises (incl. Health & Safety)
3. Finance
4. Staffing
5. Teaching and Learning (incl. Early Years)
6. Statutory compliance
7. Communications

Please see Appendix 1 for a list of current governors.

Attendance Record of Governors

Governors have an excellent attendance record at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not 'quorate' (the minimum number of governors required to make legal decisions).

The Work of the IEB

While the school was given an 'inadequate' rating, Ofsted recognised the impact of the IEB and Interim Head. As a result, the school was deemed to have serious weaknesses as opposed to 'special measures' and Leadership and Management was judged as 'requires improvement'; a testament to the impact in such a short space of time.

Each IEB mini-team has reviewed school process and procedures, including a thorough audit of safeguarding, the development of a deficit recovery plan, staff restructuring, improvements in early years, health & safety review, communications strategy, and statutory compliance checks. All aspects of the school have required some degree of remedial action. The school is now well-placed for the new academic year, with solid systems in place and a strong teaching team. We will continue to take advantage of the expertise available from other schools in the area, including Frays, Cippenham and Whiteknights.

The SATs results showed a positive improvement, broadly up 10% on 2017, with additional improvements in pupil progress. This is a credit to the hard work of the Interim Headteacher and teaching team, and their impact in such a short space of time. It bodes well for further improvements in the coming academic year.

The KS2 combined score (reading, writing, maths) was 55% with individual scores as follows:

- Reading = 69%
- Writing = 67%
- Maths = 65%
- Spelling, punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) = 62%

Across the school, pupils have been undertaking NFER standardised tests. This will enable the school to have a strong understanding of each pupil and where they need support to make further progress. Parents are encouraged to ask the teachers about their child's progress. We expect every teacher to be able to tell you what progress they're making and what they need to do next.

We have a particular focus on vulnerable groups of children and a duty to ensure the Pupil Premium grant is being spent effectively.

As part of the school improvement process senior leaders and IEB representatives meet with the Local Authority at a School Improvement Board, to monitor progress and identify improvement areas that would benefit from additional support.

Every year, the school must produce a report called the School Financial Value Standard (SFVS) to ensure that all financial procedures and controls have been adhered to. The IEB reviewed the report and no issues were found.

Future Plans

The year ahead will be a busy one. The IEB will continue to hold the school to account for rapid and sustainable progress. In parallel the IEB will take responsibility for the academisation process. While the school has no control over the final decision, the IEB will work closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner to influence the decision and obtain the best possible sponsor school for Beechwood pupils.

Appendix 1 – The Interim Executive Board

Mark A’Bear, Chair of Governors (Co-opted governor)

Louise Connelly

Lester Dennis

Dave Fisher

Stephanie Holding

Richard Skegg

Dave Williams

Sarah Curtis (Headteacher)

Helen Church (Clerk)

Appendix 2 – Attendance at Meetings

Governor	IEB Meetings
Mark A’Bear	9/9
Louise Connelly	7/9
Lester Dennis	8/9
Dave Fisher	7/9
Stephanie Holding	8/9
Richard Skegg	8/9
Dave Williams	6/9