

Stonelow Junior School



Governing Body Impact and Effectiveness June 2016

The Governors' Handbook states that all schools should publish on their website an annual statement setting out the key issues that have been faced and addressed by the governing body over the last year, including an assessment of the impact of the governing body of the school.

At Stonelow Junior School the Governing Body focuses on the three main areas of Governance in the following way:

- Ensuring the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction,
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governors at SJS attend regular meetings at which the School Improvement Plan is reviewed, budgets are monitored, policies are agreed, staff recruitment and retention is discussed and most importantly, the well being and achievement of the children is central to all discussion.

Focus for 2015-16

All governors are aware of the School Improvement priorities which are identified through rigorous self-evaluation involving data analysis, lesson observations, work scrutiny and pupil interviews which named governors are invited to attend. Over the past year the School has focussed on:

- Closing the attainment gap for disadvantaged pupils (John Staniforth/Vanessa Siddall)
- Improving outcomes in writing (Kathryn Bullock/Leann Vaughan)
- Improving progress in reading (Dianne Webster)

Assigning named governors to the School Improvement Priorities enables the governing body to share ownership of and responsibility for school improvement.

Training

Governors undertake regular training to ensure that they are fully trained to carry out the role of governors. Some attend specific training to enable them to carry out specific roles on the governing body. Each new governor is invited to attend new governor induction training and is given an induction pack to help them fulfil the role. Governor Strategic briefing sessions run by the Local authority are attended by

members of the governing body to ensure that all governors are kept up to date with any changes within the education system.

What comes next?

- Governors are keeping abreast of information relating to the requirement for schools to become academies and regularly considering how this affects SJS.
- SJS already work collaboratively with other Dronfield Primary Schools and Governors will be looking at making this more formal in future.
- Governors agreed to re-pool the funding for the Early Hel Offer to the Local Authority and will be monitoring the impact of this.