



A View From The Chair – Karen Roche



Since taking over as the Chair of the school's Governing Body of in September, it has been a year of lively activity! I have enjoyed working with other governors and the staff, getting to know some of you and your children. Since this time last year, when the School came out of the OfSTED category 'Special Measures', the governing body has worked closely with Mr Strudley and his staff on our rapid journey of improvement – which was noted by the Inspector when he visited the school last October. We feel that things are going well and we want to share with you the work of the governing body over the past year. Our governing body is made up of a committed group of volunteers. Some are parent governors, some staff, some community members and some are appointed by Bracknell-Forest Borough Council. We work in four committees which focus on Staffing, School Improvement, Finance & Buildings and Strategy & Effectiveness. All committees cover the safeguarding of children. Here is a summary of what the committees have been working on over the past year:

Staffing



Chair: Jason Cooper (Community Governor).

The Staffing committee supports and challenges decisions about staffing matters across the school. This has ranged from lengthy discussions around the school's staffing structure as it develops to monitoring the effectiveness of the recruitment policy. We make sure that the school has carried out all the right checks on staff when they are appointed. The sort of questions we regularly ask include 'Do we have the best people for the jobs they are doing?' and 'In what proportions of lessons do you judge the quality of teaching as good or better?' The new national focus on rewarding the performance of effective teachers will be a particular focus for us over the next year, ensuring that the schools leadership team applies policies fairly that drive the development of all staff.

School Improvement



Chair: Carole Blunden-Lee (Local Authority Governor).

It has been an exciting time for the School Improvement Committee this year as we focus heavily on moving to 'Good' from 'Requires Improvement.' There have been many new initiatives to help improve the children's performance that we have as a committee been consulted on and have thoroughly endorsed. It has been pleasing to see how the Bug Reading Scheme and the new maths scheme ABACUS has taken off with good results.

We have also looked at children's books to see how they are using the new resources to improve their work. The committee is also concerned with monitoring the attainment and progress of all children in the school, receiving reports on assessments that take place six times each year. We have been rigorous in our assessments of this data and the senior leaders have been thorough in answering questions to our satisfaction. We have also had presentations from various groups of children about, for example, the sciences, running the school library and the Year 6 trip to

Ros-y-Gwaliau. We are looking forward to the implementation of the new International Primary Curriculum. Excitingly we are strengthening links with Edgbarrow School and with Wellington College, using their resources, thus furthering the Community Spirit.



Finance and Buildings

Chair: Stewart Mackie (Parent Governor).

This committee ensures the financial stability of the school and maintains the physical infrastructure and safe environment. We support the budget submission process to the Local Authority (LA) as well as monitoring and approving expenditure to ensure the school provides the best education for its children within its allocated budget limits.

The committee ensured the 2014/15 budget was submitted to the LA in May and subsequently approved. In addition the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) document, which monitors the school's Financial Management capabilities, was completed and sent to the LA.

As in all schools, the largest proportion of the budget is spent on providing our most important resource – our staff and Mr Strudley has clear plans for spending residual money to provide the resources to make the environment attractive, purposeful and enjoyed by the children. The Committee approved expenditure for improvements to the main hall and the Foundation garden to enhance and improve that area with the inclusion of artificial grass. We also purchased the Trim Trail on the school field, repaired the dilapidated garage doors on the playground and installed new fencing around the perimeter of the school to make it more secure. An added bonus to the fencing was the extension to the Nature Garden which provides a fantastic resource for the children.



Strategy and Effectiveness

Chair: Paul Brandist (Parent Governor)

This new committee was established in this academic year and seeks to complete a review and refresh of the current Strategic Plan; develop and implement a clear and robust Strategic Planning & Review process & policy; and to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the Governing Body to help lead the school on its journey to becoming Outstanding.

We have been working with parents to identify the key themes that are important to you. You have told us that they are, in order of priority: Pupils' safety and security, Leadership/Headteacher Stability, Excellent Staff Recruitment and Retention, Quality of Teaching, Environment – welcoming, friendly and inclusive, Pupil Behaviour, Strong Learning Ethos, Pupil Behaviour, Effective Governing Body, Quality of Support for Pupils with Difficulty. All themes will feature in our Strategic Plan for 2014-17.

Along with Mr Strudley, it is our responsibility to ensure that we maintain the highest quality provision and ethos of Wildmoor Heath as the school develops and grows. It is our intention to continue working with you and to communicate on how we feel we are doing. I hope you will see us around school and regularly at events during the coming year.