

Annual Governance Statement 2015/16

This annual governance statement gives a brief overview of the activities of the governing body over the last year. It is intentionally brief, as we always aim to report significant activities as they happen throughout the year via the school newsletter. Therefore it probably contains little that you haven't already heard, just a summary of the year's highlights.

The report is organised around the three primary objectives of the governing body – setting the strategic direction of the school, holding the school to account, and ensuring the financial well-being of the school.

Strategic Direction

Over the course of the last year, we have tried to ensure we take steps to realise our vision. By far the most significant activity was the process of deciding whether to convert to become an academy, amalgamate with the Junior School or join a multi-academy trust. The Governing Body voted to start an informal process for amalgamation. After a series of informal meetings in the Summer and Autumn terms, the formal consultation period will take place in September-October 2016; the results of this will be scrutinised by the governing body in November 2016.

It is our expectation that this process will be completed in the first half of 2017, and we will keep you informed of progress throughout the process.

Holding the School to Account

The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that the head teacher and staff are adhering to the school's policies and delivering the best possible outcomes for all children.

One of the biggest challenges last year was to ensure that staff and pupils were well prepared for the new KS1 SATs in May 2016. As has been documented extensively elsewhere, the new curriculum significantly raised the expected level of achievement in all subjects. It is therefore impossible to compare the 2016 results with previous years, but the Governing Body have worked extensively with staff to analyse these results and identify areas for improvement. We have also spent a lot of time monitoring the progress of all children throughout their time at the school – this has been particularly important this year because of the national change in assessment systems.

School policies are reviewed on a rolling programme throughout the year, and the Governing Body has statutory responsibility for some of these. We now [publish more of these policies than ever on the website](#).

The Governing Body is also responsible for setting and monitoring the aims described in the School Improvement Plan. A summary of the 2015/16 School Improvement Plan is published alongside this statement.

Financial Well-Being of the School

As you will no doubt be aware from the media, pressure on school budgets is greater than ever, particularly for small schools. The Governing Body therefore believes it is to the great credit of Mrs Walmsley and Miss Byrnes that the school finances remain strong in such challenging circumstances. Kingsway Infant School is by no means immune to this budget pressure, and therefore we continue to monitor the school's finances on a regular basis to ensure the best value for money is being obtained, and the long-term viability of the school is secured.

Governance

In the last year we have welcomed Stephen Packman and Donna Myerthall to the Governing Body as new Parent Governors. We have also said goodbye to Shumyla Sheikh and Dr Punam Kukadia – the Governing Body would like to thank both of them for their hard work during the last year.

In September 2015 new rules were introduced requiring governing bodies to publish more information about their membership, attendance and business interests. We update this throughout the year [on the website](#).