

Leeming RAF Primary School

Governor Newsletter



Spring 2018

Dear All,

Suitably primed with coffee, laptop, school policies and monitoring reports (thank you Mr Campbell), abandoned in the Head teacher's office, I have been given the opportunity to write to the parents and carers of our pupils to spotlight the work of the Governing Body. The Governing Body is a willing team of volunteers from all walks of life, charged with delivering the core functions of governance. We play an increasingly important part in the leadership and management of the school, but recognise much of what we do parents and carers have no oversight.

One of our core functions is to ensure that Mr Campbell and the Leadership Team is painting a fair and balanced picture of our school to all stakeholders. At Leeming RAF Primary School, the Governing Body use Link Governors to gain a deeper understanding of key school subjects and statutory responsibilities. In our drive to improve communication and raise awareness, please see a collection of short narratives from our Link Governors.

Safeguarding – Jayne Rosamond (Co-Opted Governor)

'The current audit shows evidence that the school meets grade 5 and that all safeguarding concerns have been addressed. The Link Governor physically checked that policies and procedures were in place by requesting to see records and policies without prior planning and through talking to children from the school council. From speaking to the children, it was evident that they have knowledge of how to stay safe on line, the dangers of social media and playing on-line games, who they should speak to if they have worry and how they can contact childline.'

All the children stated that they felt safe living at RAF Leeming because it is "behind the wire", however, this may give them a false sense of security and school staff and parents should therefore ensure that children understand that there are still risks that can affect them.'

Maths – Dan Askew (Co-Opted Governor)

'I visited the school to look at the ways in which they are supporting children with their learning in Mathematics. Over the course of the visit, I met with the Mathematics Leader who has an achievable plan for addressing the points raised in the February 2017 improvements summary over the year. We also had the chance to review the Maths Data Overview for 2016 and the comparison to the 2017 overview. It was evident that the school has made improvements in EYFS, KS1 and KS2 over the previous years.'

Social, Moral, Spiritual & Cultural (SMSC) – Katrina Davies (Co-Opted Governor)

'The purpose of the visit was to look at the SMCS provision within the school particularly the promotion of fundamental British values. These are defined by the British government as democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance. I found there is a concise set of aims, objectives and policies surrounding these and that they are creatively and effectively taught within the school with the aim that they become part of the children's growing morality rather than something that they agree with because they are told too.'

Science – Philip Perry (Parent Governor)

'The Science Leader Summary Report shows clear evidence of management scrutiny in this subject, with regular meetings between [the Subject Lead] and Senior Management. This is followed up with feedback to the rest of the teaching staff, and regular monitoring. [The Subject Lead] is providing support to other science leads in North Yorkshire, and disseminated useful information to other staff following attendance at county network meetings.'

English – James Stewart (Co-Opted Governor)

'Upon review of the English Action Plan for the 2017/18 school year, it has been good to see some key themes return this academic year. As per the 2016/17 action plan, priorities and development areas are aligned to [the School Improvement Plan]. The [English] action plan has been scrutinised by the Schools [Senior Leadership Team] and continues to focus on vulnerable/disadvantaged pupils and those children working below [Age Related Expectations].'

Data – Steve Wood (Local Authority Governor)

The main focus of this visit was to confirm what external reports existed which provided evidence to support the locally produced data reports. The Head Teacher produced 4 key documents/reports which backed up the locally produced reports and was able to clearly highlight the same data across all documents whilst also explaining how the different data sets were used in target setting and monitoring performance and attainment. All of these reports had LA buy-in and were based on the same data set, but presented in different ways and allowed the Head Teacher to compare how the school was performing across both then National and LA picture. The key areas of improvement highlighted are well known (writing and phonics) and highlighted in the [School Improvement Plan].

Routinely our Staff Governors do not have specific Link Governor responsibilities, but do give the Governing Body a first-hand insight in to the day to day running of the school, as described by Mrs Davies below:

Educational Visit (Low Mill Residential) – Kate Davies (Staff Governor)

'This educational visit followed our school values of caring, respect and doing our best. It showed the children this isn't something just to do in school but also outside and to our fellow humans. Reinforcing this is imperative for the wellbeing of the child and our community. The educational visit [also] gave the children the opportunity to engage in activities that they would normally not get the chance to do. It was an opportunity for pupils to shine in a non-academic way developing resilience. Furthermore, children developed their cooperation and team skills. It was also a time that they could see the teachers overcome their personal fears thus building a secure trusting relationship. All of this learning has been transferred back into the classroom now they are facing academic challenges.'

If you would like to know more about school Governance, please speak to the School Office who can put you in touch with either myself or the Local Authority Governor Support Team.
Best regards,



James Stewart
Chair of Governors