

Annual Statement – The impact of the Governing Body on the on the School

2015 – 2016 Report from Governing Board

During the year, Benson governors supported the school through considerable change.

In line with our determination to help children in Birmingham, the school has been expanding in years where places are most needed so that children can go to school in the area in which they live.

The school has now grown to 603 pupils – with 533 children from reception to Year 6, and 70 in nursery.

This has meant change and hard work for everyone, and the governors have been working to make sure that the budget is managed to provide the buildings, staffing and resources that are required.

Much work was done to continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning at the school, and the governors supported the Head and her whole team in some extremely focused, hard work – visiting the school and exploring the data that was provided on the achievements of the children, and approving the finance for resources and staff to achieve the best possible outcomes for all the children at Benson.

The governors continue to work with the Head and her team and the Local Authority to look ahead and be prepared for future changes in education and organisation that may occur.

Governors have met regularly, attended training courses and visited the school. Parent governor elections were held during the year and two parents were elected; a further two governors have also been appointed. The governing board is up to strength.

The Head was seconded to another school and acted as the Executive Head of Benson. This required flexibility and hard work from the staff, and particularly the two Deputy Heads who acted as Heads of School, our thanks to them.

Having been at the school for 12 years, the Head, Mrs Rindl decided to accept the challenge of a new, larger school and told the governors she would be leaving. We appreciated her loyalty and hard work at Benson, and understood that her skills and experience meant that she should move on to new challenges. The governors and admin team then worked extremely hard to secure a worthy successor for Mrs Rindl, and after a stringent recruitment process were delighted to appoint Mrs Bridget Dennis who will take up her position from September 2016, the governors look forward to working with her.

The use of Pupil Premium and Sports Premium was regularly reported to governors, who were satisfied that it was being used appropriately and effectively.

Staff worked within the framework of the new testing and assessment regime, governors worked to assimilate the changes in their overview of the school.

Governors worked to oversee the Performance Management of the Head and Staff at the school; they reviewed the staffing structure to ensure it was fit for purpose, and they supported the school in its membership of the Greet Teaching School Alliance.

The GB fulfilled its role in terms of safeguarding – completing all relevant reviews and documents.

The GB reviewed the financial systems and carried out a full audit when completing the Schools Financial Value Standard document for the Local Authority.