

## **2018 - 19 Report from Governors, annual statement**

The school continued to work with the local authority to offer more places in years where they were needed. This required considerable flexibility from all staff and they continued to meet the challenge.

There was continued financial pressure and governors worked with the school to deliver a balanced budget. This required a strategy of cautious spending and recruitment – effective cuts to resources, and people. The governors monitored closely the effects of the changes.

Work continued to improve the quality of teaching and learning at the school. Monitoring systems were developed further, and through these and visits to the school, governors were able to see how individuals and groups of children progressed and the impact of their time at Benson. Pupils at Benson have a wide variety of backgrounds and experience and flexible and nuanced tracking helped the governors to understand how the school and staff were supporting and developing pupils.

There is a high level of mobility through the school – this requires considerable effort in both administration and teaching and pastoral care. The governors are fully aware of this and support the Head and her Staff in offering every pupil, however short their time at Benson a warm welcome and effective teaching.

Results improved over the year in most year groups, and despite a difficult financial outlook, governors were determined to support the Head and her team with the resources needed to continue to achieve the best possible outcomes. Progress is in line with other schools nationally in Maths, and slightly below in reading; pupils who stay at Benson, on the whole, do well academically and are in line with national results. In writing – progress is above average; and the governors were pleased to note that many children who arrive with no English also attain well and that results were above floor targets.

The building expansion project continued, and is due to be completed in March 2019, for use in September 2019.

Governors have met regularly, attended training courses and made focused visits to the school, and were delighted to welcome three new governors during the year with experience that will be extremely useful to Benson.

The GB fulfilled its role in terms of safeguarding – with regular reviews and reporting.

The use of Pupil Premium and Sports Premium was regularly reported to governors, who were satisfied that it was being used appropriately and effectively and the governors continued to support the school in the determination to offer wide opportunities to pupils in music, drama and after-school activities.

There was an Ofsted inspection of the school at the beginning of May, governors were fully involved in the process, and Benson was found to be a 'Good' school. The challenge that governors offered, and their high aspirations for the school were noted; the work the school does to promote pupils' personal development and welfare was found to be outstanding and the governors were pleased with the report, but are working to support the school to improve further.