



Newdale Primary School and Nursery

Governors' Annual Report to Parents

Autumn 2018

'A School of Doers, Believers and Achievers...'



'Standards are high, behaviour is excellent and leadership at all levels is highly effective' Ofsted June 2017

The Governing Body at Newdale continue to have an effective team with a variety of skills and experience which support our school community. We have an in depth understanding of the school's work and performance. The team carry out a wide range of responsibilities for the benefit of our children, parents/carers, staff and the wider community. We are robust and rigorous in our role as a critical friend and very regularly visit the school and nursery to talk with children and teachers, as well as look at the learning environments, books and journals.



As you know, our June 2017 Ofsted inspection recognised our outstanding provision in our school and nursery. Governors feel that this judgment is very well deserved and acknowledges the hard work, commitment of pupils, teachers, staff and parents in helping the school to achieve this. We are confident that the school continues to operate at this high level and a number of independent educational consultants have verified this.

Who are we?

To find out more about the role of the Governors, visit our school website:

www.newdaleschool.org.uk On our website you can find out who we are and our term of office. There are short pen portraits for each member of the Governing Body.

What have been our successes this year?

- Members of the Early Years and senior management team travelled to Finland to explore education provision there. We began developing a more skills based curriculum allowing children to be much more independent and resilient as well as allowing children the freedom to learn from taking risks.

- We have developed our unique complex needs provision following its success around progress and social and emotional wellbeing.
- We have had many sporting successes this year not least becoming national winners in hockey. Governors are always proud of our sporting success and where possible will support from the side-line.



Hockey winners!

- We continue to place a high priority on learning away from Newdale, with children visiting a variety of places, including Harry Potter World and for the first time our younger Year 2 children enjoying a night away from home in Ironbridge.



Year 2 enjoying the Blists Hill school room.

- Our Year 6 children again visited Arthog early on in the year. This is very much a place where children learn not only about the tasks they are faced with e.g. gorge walking and canoeing, but also develop skills around teamwork and resilience. On learning walks following this trip, Governors could see evidence of these skills being demonstrated in the classroom and around school.



Team building at Arthog.

- We introduced a new activity holiday provision to support both children and working parents. This has proved hugely popular and successful. The intention now is that we will continue to offer this provision into the future.
- We are in the top 10% of schools when comparing financial efficiency with similar schools.
- We are a Category 1 school. This means that we are operating at a high level without the need for Local Authority support.
- We continue to recruit a professional full time sports coach along with a full-time apprentice to support children and our teams to further success.



Children enjoying a competition at the trampoline park.

- We have continued to support many charities over the year including the British Legion where we raised over £5700 pounds for this worthy cause with our hugely successful 'Poppy Rock' project. As a result of this project our choir were guests of honour at the Shrewsbury Festival of Remembrance. Some of our Governors attended -



'I just wanted to let you know how much we both enjoyed the Remembrance Festival yesterday. The choir were amazing (the second song brought a tear to my eye)! We really appreciate how much hard work Newdale staff have put into the choir, and for giving up their free time to take them to the event. Everyone involved did Newdale proud!'

School Governor.

- The Rotary Club for children (Roto Kids) has continued to have an impact in raising money for charities locally, nationally and internationally.
- We enter many external competitions and were successful in winning many prizes at the RAF 100 art completion in RAF Shawbury.



- We have strong links with other local and out of county Primary and Secondary schools. Our exemplary books and staff regularly visit other schools to support them in further development.
- Our staff team are trained to a very high level and are constantly striving to improve e.g. we have two specialist leaders in education who support across the borough and beyond, sharing their experience and expertise.
- We continue to carry out many successful community engagement activities including termly family lunches (average attendance 300 parents), fortnightly lunches for the local OAPs and an annual Grandparents' Day.



- We have worked hard to develop our whole school vision, in line with feedback from you, your children, governors and staff members. Governors have visited the school to see the school vision statement in practice both in classrooms and corridors and outside areas.
- The Breakfast Club and After School Club lead has continued to work tirelessly in further developing our provision following consultation with parents and children. We have approximately 200 children registered for our Breakfast Club and 100 registered for our After School Club. Intensive safeguarding training has been provided for all staff.
- We have further developed the knowledge of our 'Safeguarding Champion' team and monitored the impact they are having. These children attend Health and Safety

Committee meetings and join Governors in site checks and contribute to the development of action plans.



Our outstanding statutory results

- By the end of Key Stage 2 the progress our children make in terms of Reading, Writing and Mathematics is in line with or higher than the national average.
- By the end of Key Stage 2 our attainment exceeds national level expectations in Reading, Writing (including Spelling and Grammar) and Mathematics.
- By the end of Key Stage 1, attainment across Reading & Phonics, Writing and Mathematics exceeds National expectations.
- We have again achieved extremely high phonics scores, which maintains our position alongside the highest performing schools across the country.
- Our youngest children make accelerated progress in our Nursery and Reception classes.

How did the governors help us to achieve this?

There is a clear vision statement which children, parents/carers, school staff and governors contributed to, against which all targets and actions are assessed. Throughout the year, the Governors have visited the school to see this vision in practice and have fed back on their observations. The children's safety, welfare and learning are at the forefront of all of our decision making. Our 2018 - 2019 Vision Statement can be found on the school's website.

The Governing Body monitored school improvement through regular visits into school with meetings with school leaders, effective training, scrutiny of documentation, rigorous appraisal systems, observations, interviews with staff and children, as well as through questionnaires to parents/carers and children. The responses to questionnaires were scrutinised and acted upon wherever possible e.g. continued use of the website to share information about learning, extra Safeguarding Champions and Playground Friends to help the children to feel safe and happy at lunchtimes, lunchtime supervisors and teaching staff working together to deal with any playground issues.

The Governors have worked in 4 main ways to achieve these successes.

- **Setting the vision for the school and strategic direction of the school.**

This year, Governors have again established clear action plans, targets and staff management procedures so that staff aim high in order for children to achieve their very best.

The Governors have again worked with the staff to develop the School Development Plan and also the school Raising Attainment Plan. Governors used a range of data and feedback from monitoring to identify the school's strengths and areas for development.

Governors, throughout the year, have attended training courses to improve their skills in order to support the development of the school and ensure that we fulfil our role effectively e.g. *The Strategic Role of Governors, Data Protection and safeguarding updates.*

• **Holding the Head Teacher to account**

School leadership has continued to be strong -

'The quality of leadership at all levels is superb' Ofsted June 2017

Governors are fully aware of what the school does well. They engage with senior leaders in setting the vision for the school and subsequent priorities to work on. Throughout the year, Governors requested data regarding attainment and progress at committee meetings and Full Governing Body meetings and questioned the impact of decisions taken. During the year, we have regularly monitored the teaching and learning in school through lesson observations, pupil book scrutiny and consultations with pupils about their learning. We recognise the importance of parental support in their child's learning and as a consequence have continued to scrutinise reading diaries of all of the children on a regular basis. We have attended Senior Leadership Team, Pupil Progress, subject leaders meetings as well as Head Teacher target setting meetings and Designated Safeguarding Lead meetings. The Chair of Governors shared this exemplary practice with Head Teachers from across the borough.

The Head Teacher has written termly reports to the Governing Body, which identified attainment and achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, attendance reports and the curriculum offer.

• **Ensuring financial resources are well spent**

The Finance Committee met every half-term where we monitored the school budget and ensured that spending was in line with the 'best value' ethos. We identified areas for spending linked to the priorities on the School Development Plan and any other 'emergency' spending. We met regularly with our Local Authority Finance Officer and closed the healthy budget for 2017 -2018 and set the budget for 2018 -2019 in line with our identified priorities. The Schools' Financial Value Standard (SFVS) ensures that our budget is spent wisely and properly, allowing school to optimise resources, and so raise standards and attainment of all our pupils for 2017- 2018. This was completed in November 2017 (one of

the earliest schools in the Authority to complete). Ofsted commended us on our budget management.

Governors have been trained to ensure that the Pupil Premium Funding has been directed to the targeted children and we have developed and evaluated an action plan for 2017 - 2018 and identified priorities for 2018 -2019.

In addition, Governors have monitored the additional sports funding. We have also consulted pupils about the quality of the PE provision. Without exception, all of the pupils enjoyed the many varied Physical Education opportunities offered to them.

Audited School Funds have been presented at the Full Governing Body meeting on an annual basis.

- **Ensuring statutory duties are met and priorities approved**

The Chair of Governors has met on a regular basis with the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and the School Business Manager to ensure all statutory policies, procedures and information are up-to-date and published on the school website. Governors met at committee meetings to ensure statutory policies and procedures were fully in place. Governors continue to give particular regard to the statutory guidance on 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018'. Some Governors have received Safer Recruitment training and are regularly involved in staff recruitment, ensuring that we have the best possible people for the job. All Governors have received Prevent training linked to Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation.

Throughout the year, the school regularly held fire practices and health and safety audits which Governors from the Health and Safety Committee attended. The Safeguarding Champions accompanied the Governors when assessing the efficiency of the evacuation of the building.

Some of the policies agreed in the last academic year:

Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy
Child Protection Policy
Health & Safety Policy
Relationships and Sex Education Policy
Admissions Policy
Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Policy
Equality Policy
Collective Worship Policy
Intimate Care Policy
CCTV Policy
Assessment Policy
Absence Management Policy
Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy

Capability Policy
Code of Conduct Policy
Attendance Policy
Pay Policy
Complaints Policy

On-going and Future Areas of Involvement

Governors will be continuing to listen to the views of parents, carers and children through the delivery and analysis of the parent and pupil surveys. Governors are integral in the school's monitoring and evaluation cycle and will continue to offer challenge and support in our role as a critical friend. We are fully aware of the development points listed in our 2017 Ofsted and will be continuing to monitor progress in achieving success in these areas.

Our school is committed to continuing to improve all aspects of our provision. We have a strong culture of reflection and self-evaluation. We value the views of parents, children and all other stakeholders. The Governing Body, Head Teacher, Senior Management Team and indeed all members of staff fully understand the need not to be complacent and strive for further success for the school and nursery.

For further detailed information, see our website

<https://newdaleschool.taw.org.uk>

Newdale Primary School Ofsted Report 2017:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/133300>



Thank you for finding the time to read this report. If you have any ideas, questions or comments please do let us know. You can contact any member of the Governing Body by contacting the school office who will be happy to help.

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