



# Newdale Primary School and Nursery Governors' Annual Report to Parents Autumn 2019

**'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. Several of our Governors have been working with the school for many years. 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. For example, most recently (September 19th, 2019) Governors met with pupils to talk with them about their reading. They also conduct learning walks throughout school and nursery looking for evidence of the vision statement in action.



Children talking to Governors during September 2019 Curriculum committee meeting

Our June 2017 Ofsted inspection recognised the 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 as Governors frequently monitor standards, curriculum, behaviour and well-being. Several independent educational consultants have also verified our findings.

## **Who are we?**

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

[www.newdaleschool.org.uk](http://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. If you wish to make contact with our Governors, please inform the school office.

### What have been our successes this year?

- Following our visit to Finland last year we have set up Basecamp. This area is used very regularly to develop independent skills, while allowing children to enjoy a wonderful outdoor experience. We share this provision with the Linden Centre school.
- We successfully managed to sustain our high quality unique complex needs provision with children making significant progress over time.
- We have had many sporting successes this year. Governors are always proud of our sporting achievements and equally proud of the feedback we regularly receive about good sportsmanship being displayed.



Interschool Cross country event.

- We continue to place a high priority on learning away from Newdale allowing children to take part in other aspects of society (Cultural Capital). Children again visited London and came back buzzing with excitement. Governors recognise the value of trips out of school and how they ignite the learning for children.



Year 5 enjoying their tea on the London Residential.

- Year 2 children again enjoyed a night away from home in Ironbridge. Teachers shared with Governors, the actual learning that took place and what the children could articulate.

*"I really enjoyed the trip because I got to sleepover with my friends. We learnt about the Ironbridge and how to be independent. Everyone was very brave to sleep over without their Mummy and Daddy, because for some children it was their first time."* Year 2 boy.

- Our Year 6 children again visited Arthog early 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 are in the top 10% of schools when comparing financial efficiency with similar schools, therefore ensuring financial resources are well spent.
- We are a Category 1 school. This means that we are operating at a high level without the need for Local Authority support. We are proud to have been asked by the Local Authority to manage a neighbouring primary school sharing our skills and expertise.
- We also 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 three specialist leaders in education who support across the borough and beyond, sharing their experience and expertise.
- A member of the leadership team was again successful in becoming an English moderator for the Local Authority. Our school was independently moderated in Year 6, with all judgements verified as accurate.
- 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. With the support of the PE and sport premium grant, our PE provision is allowing all children to participate and progress in a wide range of sports. (See website for a full breakdown of how the funding is spent).



### Year 4 Tennis Competition.

- We have continued to support many charities over the year. The Rotary Club for children (Roto Kids) has continued to have an impact in raising money for charities locally, nationally and internationally.
- We continue to carry out many successful community engagement activities including termly family lunches (average attendance 300 parents) and an annual Grandparents' Day.



Year 2 Grandparents Gardening Afternoon



Reception Grandparents Afternoon Tea

- 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 (November 2019).
- 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. Monitoring the provision through talking to pupils, parents and staff reassured Governors that our offer continues to provide good value for money for our community.

After School Club trip out!



- 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.
- School Council was developed further into a School Parliament group, with carefully thought out rules and regulations inline with our real Parliament. This group meet regularly and report back to Governors during committee meetings.

#### 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 high phonics scores in the Year 1 phonics test.
- Our youngest children make accelerated progress in our Nursery and Reception classes. By the end of EYFS (YR) 72% children achieved GLD which is in line with the national average.

#### **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 our decision making. Our 2019 - 2020 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. a full review of our homework offer was carried out and amendments made.

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 for children to achieve their very best.

The Governors have again worked with the staff to develop the School Development Plan (SDP) and the school Raising Attainment Plan (RAP). 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. *Safer recruitment and Raising Awareness*.

- **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 consequently have continued to scrutinise reading diaries of all of the children on a regular basis (November 2019 latest book look). 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 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 2018 -2019 and set the budget for 2019 -2020 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 2018 - 2019. This was completed in November 2018 (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 2018 - 2019 and identified priorities for 2019 -2020 (see school website).

In addition, Governors have monitored the additional sports funding. We have also consulted pupils about the quality of the PE provision. Without exception, all 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 2019'. 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 Raising Attainment Plan (September 2019) and in the 2017 Ofsted report. We will be continuing to monitor progress in achieving success in all areas to maintain our 'outstanding' judgement and 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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Some of the fun events run in our school

BBQ Family Lunch July 2019



Telford Langley students leading on the Health Champion programme with our children.

Art Day 2019



Telford 50 celebration with the Mayor



Mini Crucial Crew- Year 5



Mrs Thomas, Year 6 teacher joining in with the Mini Crucial Crew Yoga session!