

Cove Junior School Chair of Governor's Report June 2024

Since our last Chair of Governors' report, we have had a very successful OFSTED inspection, and we are very pleased that the inspector validated what we are doing to make sure that every pupil has the education they deserve.

That our report and verbal feedback was so good came as no surprise to the Governing Body. One of our roles is to hold the Headteacher to account for the performance of the school and we do this by triangulating information. That is, we receive reports from the Headteacher, we get reports and data from external sources, and most importantly we visit school to check that we can see in action what we have been told.

School monitoring visits are regularly undertaken and cover a range of areas such as Health and Safety, Finance, Teaching and Learning and Safeguarding. So far, this academic year governors have completed 19 visits, and more are planned in the second half of this term.

I undertook a monitoring visit to see for myself how children behaved in school, if they understood how they should conduct themselves and whether or not our school motto and visions meant something to them. As parents will know the Governors undertook a survey on behaviour in school. This has been a major focus this year, not because we felt that there was a problem but because we wanted to review our Behaviour Policy and see if any changes were required so that it fully reflected our school values. OFSTED described this as another example of our ambitious thinking. I had a lengthy chat with the school council who were able to talk freely about behaviour in the school. I then went of a walk round during playtime to see behaviours in action. I have reported to the Governing Body that the children were fully aware of the school values, were articulate and engaged and demonstrated good behaviours in the school and on the playground.

Financial Statement.

The school follows the Manual of Finance guidelines as required by Hampshire County Council. We have maintained a positive budget over the last year and have a healthy carry forward into the next financial year. The main expenditure is on the salaries of personnel.

Our planned budget for financial year 23/24 was:

Budget FY 22/23	£
Total Income	£1,697,979
Total Expenditure	£1,690,709
In year Surplus / (Deficit)	£7,270
Surplus/ Deficit B/Fwd.	£159,386
Surplus/ deficit C. Fwd.	£166,656

The Governors monitor the budget at least 6 times a year and are supported by Mrs Caroline Gontard, who has a wealth of experience in school budgeting.

The carry forward is healthy, but governors are aware that we had an in-year surplus. However, several large sums of money were due after the end of the budget cycle and recent pay rises have not been fully funded by the government. This means that we need to exercise caution as our forward planning indicates that within 3 years finances could be considerably tighter. We have agreed the budget for financial year 2024-25 and will continue to monitor it carefully.

The governors are committed to making more use of our new classroom and would welcome any interested parties who may want to let it. If you are interested, please contact the school office for more details.

The Cove Junior School Governing Body

The school governing body consist of 12 members made up from the Headteacher, a local authority governor, a staff governor, six co-opted governors and three parent governors.

Our meetings are minuted by a Local Authority clerk, Mrs. L. McBrearty.

Our current Governors are: -

Mrs T. Hickie Headteacher
Mrs C. Pickup Local Authority Governor, Chair of Governors
Mrs L. Shaw Co-opted Governor, Vice Chair of Governors
Mrs M. Gujer, Co-opted Governor
Mr C. Bevan, Co-opted Governor
Mr N. Matulewicz-Boyle, Co-opted Governor
Dr M Khuddro, Co-opted Governor
Mr. S. Brown Co-opted Governor
Mrs . N Blazer, Staff Governor
Mr Scott Ferry, Parent Governor

We have two vacancies for parent governors and would welcome applications from members of our local community.

Caroline Pickup
Chair of Governors