



# Annual Governors Report

## For the academic year

### 2016-2017



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## Chair's Introduction

Welcome again to another Annual Report of the Governing Body of Oaklands Junior School. I have the privilege of continuing my role as the Chair of the governing body and enjoying the close links that we, the governors, have with the staff and children at school. I am pleased to say that Oaklands has enjoyed another successful year and continues to go from strength to strength.

Just as we had settled into a new school year we had an Ofsted Inspection, which we had been expecting for some time. The inspection confirmed that we continue to be a 'Good School' and that our Safeguarding is effective. In the report the Ofsted inspector noted that:

- Oaklands Junior School has a particularly warm and welcoming atmosphere.
- This is a school that knows its pupils well and ensures that they are cared for and protected rigorously and compassionately.
- Teachers have high expectations and use their good subject knowledge to design engaging lessons.
- Highly skilled teaching assistants inspire pupils with confidence.
- Supporting pupils' personal development is clearly a strength of the school.
- Pupils speak with pride about how they support each other in school.
- The school has embedded a culture of high expectations for all, underpinned by a clear vision of, 'Learning to think and thinking to learn'.
- Reading and mathematics skills across the school are particularly strong and writing is now broadly in line with national expectations and improving.



With the challenges of government educational policies we have been busy exploring the options that academisation might offer us and the benefits that could be available for our children and their education. In September we hope we will be able to let you know more about our progress.

This report outlines our successes and achievements and I hope that you will take time to read the report. We continue to build on our strong community links and help develop our children to becoming good citizens. I think we are extremely fortunate at Oaklands to have created such a positive and vibrant environment in which our children can learn. Finally, I must thank the staff and Headteacher for their on-going dedication and commitment which makes Oaklands the school that it is, a successful, happy and continually improving school.

John McLaren

Chair of Governors

## School Aims

Oaklands' aim is to deliver the highest standard of education and care for all our pupils. We aim for us all, as learners, to:

- feel safe and valued as part of a caring community that celebrates success,
- be independent thinkers / learners who are able to seek solutions creatively and co-operatively,
- inspire an enquiring mind and ask questions,
- be confident enough to take risks in our learning,
- experience and actively participate in a relevant, enjoyable curriculum that evolves to meet the needs of all,
- be able to listen and articulate responses showing consideration to others; be polite and courteous,
- be proactive in our responsibilities towards the community, society, the environment and economy, linking 'real life' with our learning,
- understand and respect diversity,
- be aware of and recognise our own learning needs and be involved in planning future steps; develop a sense of self-esteem; be well balanced and healthy individuals.

## How do school leaders and governors promote school improvement?

At Oaklands Junior School leaders have children's safety, welfare and learning at the forefront of all decision-making. Each member of staff and each governor is a leader of at least one aspect of the school's life, working as a strong team to improve and raise standards. Pupil voice, through the School Council and parent consultation through regular meetings and surveys, mean that the whole school community is part of the consultation and decision making process.

The Headteacher and her Senior Leadership Team work with all aspects of the school community to identify priorities, plan and action developments for these and to closely monitor impact and outcomes.

The Governing Body monitors school improvement priorities through regular visits to the school for meetings, taking part in lessons and learning walks, it also spends time on scrutiny of documentation and ensures that the Headteacher and staff are regularly and rigorously appraised. In all, the 'Team' ethos at Oaklands Junior School is key to the successful learning of all our children.



## Our Governing Body

The Governing Body and the Headteacher share responsibility for the strategic management of the school, acting within the framework set by national legislation and by policies of the Local Authority (LA). While the LA is the employer of staff, the Governing Body and Headteacher have separate and particular responsibilities for the selection and management of staff. The internal management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher. The full Governing Body meets at least twice a term. In addition, there are five committees that conduct the main business of the governing body, each one reporting back to the full governing body. Most of the business of the governing body is conducted by these committees. The Governing Body for our school for the forthcoming year should be as above:

Name	Type of Governor	Term of Office
Debby Griffiths	Co-opted	Jan 19
Michelle Hall	Associate	April 21
Duncan Holland	Staff	Oct 20
Liz James	Co-opted	Jan 19
Hiten Joshi	Parent	Nov 20
Susanne Kaps	Local Authority	Dec 17
Charlotte Kieran	Co-opted	Nov 20
John McLaren	Co-opted	Jan 19
Barbara Paige	Co-opted	Jan 19
Carolyn Pyke	Co-opted	Jan 19
Justine Waight	Parent	June 21
Hazel West	Headteacher	
David Whitfield	Co-opted	Sept 20

## Governors' links with specific areas of the curriculum.

These governors visit the school regularly to work alongside teachers in their chosen subject area. Working in this way they develop a clearer idea of how our school works, forge stronger links with teachers and develop lasting relationships with children.

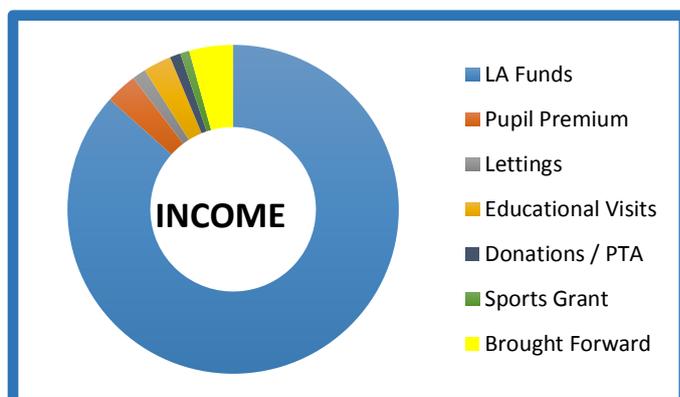


Subject	Governor
Mathematics	Liz James
English	Michelle Hall
Computing	Susanne Kaps
Thinking Schools	Barbara Paige
SEND & EAL	Justine Waight
Safeguarding	Barbara Paige
Pupil Premium	Liz James
Health & Safety	David Whitfield
Development	Debby Griffiths
Prevent	Barbara Paige
Children In Care	Liz James
Art	
DT	John McLaren
French	Michelle Hall
Geography	Carolyn Pyke
Global Learning	Justine Waight
History	Carolyn Pyke
Most Able & Talented	Justine Waight
Music	Barbara Paige
P4C	Susanne Kaps
RE & PSHE	John McLaren
Sports	Justine Waight

## Finance and Premises Committee Report

An effective learning environment makes a key contribution to helping to inspire, motivate and challenge our children. The headteacher, staff and teaching assistants create this environment but they cannot do it alone. They need the support of high quality facilities and sufficient funding to bring out the best in our children.

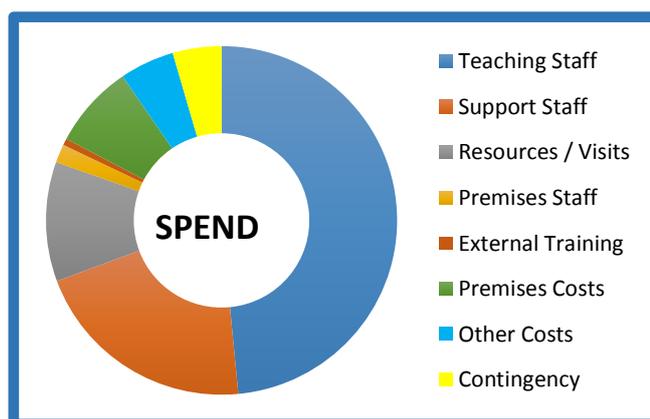
The role of the Finance and Premises Committee is essentially to ensure that we make the best possible uses of our financial and premises resources for the benefit of our children.



The media is full of tales of woe about school funding and facilities but Oaklands Junior School is currently in a good position on both counts. This has not happened by chance; we are a good school that attracts families, with a capable and highly motivated staff and we have carefully-managed facilities that support the children's learning and a range of extra-

curricular activities. Financial management is strong and the last year has seen our income rise because of increased pupil numbers and greater income from lettings, e.g. holiday and breakfast clubs.

We have an income of around £1m which we must spend carefully and we are required to run a balanced budget. With a staff of 28, and in common with any school, the lion's share of our income (around three-quarters) is spent on staff costs. The remainder is largely spent on learning resources and on running and maintaining our premises. Every year we also plan to run a number of projects which ensure the continual improvement of our school – and we are always ready to run more projects if funds become available.



The school ends the financial year in a better position than it started and the budget for next year holds the promise of an even better year ahead. This is all a tribute to the strong teamwork between the staff, governors, parents and children. Our challenge for the year ahead is to maintain and strengthen our position and, once again, we will be seeking the help of parents to achieve this.

David Whitfield

Chair of Finance & Premises

## Staffing Committee Report

Excellent teaching is what inspires, motivates and challenges our children during their time with us at Oaklands Junior School. The Headteacher and staff are responsible for creating the best possible learning environment, but in this they are supported by the Governing Body and, in particular, the Staffing Committee. The Staffing Committee is responsible for the appointment of both teaching and non-teaching staff, adopting and reviewing employment related policies including the Pay Policy, monitoring the professional development of staff and ensuring that the Staff Appraisal Policy is implemented. The Committee is also responsible for the headteacher's annual appraisal.



At the start of this year, we welcomed back Mr Hill following his year in Cyprus. Sadly, we said goodbye at the end of the last academic year to Mr Hutton and we would like to thank him for everything he has done for Oaklands Junior School and wish him the very best as he moves on to new challenges in Yorkshire. We have recruited an additional Teaching Assistant for the next academic year.

We are so lucky at Oaklands Junior School to have a fantastic team of dedicated, talented and committed teaching and support staff throughout the school who work hard to create a positive learning environment in which the children are encouraged to achieve the best they can. We are committed to maintaining the quality of teaching and support in the school despite the increasing financial constraints.

The Staffing Committee will continue to do whatever it can to support the Headteacher and staff so that they can continue to deliver an excellent learning experience for the children and consistently high pupil attainment.

Carolyn Pyke

Chair of Staffing

## Curriculum Committee Report

The Curriculum Committee is responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of the school's curriculum, monitoring the assessment arrangements and ensuring that all children, including those with special educational needs and the most able, are encouraged to reach their full potential.



This year has been more settled in terms of the curriculum, which has allowed staff to develop the school's assessment system further and produce more detailed tracking of individual pupils and particular groups. This data is examined by the Curriculum Committee at the data meeting in December, which focuses primarily on the SATs

results and also when the English and Maths named governors report back to the committee. These governors meet regularly with the staff subject leader in order to monitor pupil progress in those particular subjects, as well as to discuss any issues or successes in the subject.

The results for the new SATs tests in 2016 showed that the school was well above the national average in Reading and Maths, but below in Writing, which is teacher assessed. Therefore one of our key objectives for this year has been to improve writing, in particular boys' writing and there have been a number of initiatives and intervention groups taking place throughout the year in order to meet this objective.

However, Governors and staff believe that a child's education should not be focused purely on results and we aim to provide a rich, creative curriculum based on the Oakland's vision and mindset. This means that it is important for the committee to see the school in action and in February Mrs West kindly arranged for us to do a Learning Walk when we observed a number of lessons and spoke to the children about their learning. We were also able to see a number of the Thinking Tools in action and recognise how these have become embedded in the curriculum to great effect.



The Curriculum Committee will continue to work closely with Mrs West and the staff to ensure that the children at Oaklands achieve to the best of their ability, enjoy their time at the school and leave well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Liz James

Chair of Curriculum

## School and Community Committee Report

The School and Community Committee is primarily concerned that every child in our school is given an equal opportunity to enjoy the best education possible in a safe and caring environment. We aim to respect the rights of every individual, whilst also making each individual aware of the responsibilities they hold towards each other and the larger community.

Our Safeguarding Policy and Training are constantly up-dated to include awareness of the many aspects of protection required to keep the children safe in everything they do. We also want to create and maintain a good working and learning environment for each individual in school and to help to achieve this, we uphold policies in regard to behaviour, bullying, equality, special needs and accessibility.



A strong partnership between home and school is essential to fully support pupils in every aspect of school life and by close communication and cooperation, we can work together to give the children the best chance of achieving their full potential. We endeavour to ensure and maintain strong lines of communication through our website, including newsletters and updates, as well as being available at Parents Evenings and Information Evenings to answer any questions that parents may have. We issue an annual Parent Questionnaire which provides valuable information for evaluating what we are doing well and what we could be doing better and we take account of these findings when we are reviewing and planning for the future. Through the School Council and Year 6 Leavers' Questionnaire the pupils are also able to offer feedback and express their opinions.



The school fosters a good relationship with the larger Community, meeting other schools at sporting events, arts festivals, maths competitions etc and we regularly share and celebrate the children's talents and achievements with the people of Crowthorne through articles published in the Crowthorne Eye magazine.

There is always a need for extra money to fund projects for improvement within school and we are currently hoping to be able to buy some equipment for a Playground Gym. We seize every opportunity to participate in fundraising schemes, such as those run by supermarkets and the GreenRedeem scheme run by Wokingham Borough Council. Thank you all for your support.

Barbara Paige

Chair of School and Community

## Joint Sites and Buildings Committee Report

This is the liaison committee with Oaklands Infant School governors and ourselves. We address the common issues between the two schools, the shared contract services such as grounds maintenance, waste disposal and catering. We also monitor the condition of the overall site to ensure that any repairs required are promptly and properly carried out.



To further increase the safety of all the children, a new barrier has now been installed where the road around the school meets the playground, this is to prevent vehicles attempting to enter our playground to turn around.

The parking of vehicles around the roads to the schools is still a serious concern for the safety of the children and parents at the beginning and the end of the school day. We continue to work with the local police and Wokingham Borough Council to monitor the situation.

John McLaren

Joint Chair, Joint Sites & Buildings

## Parent Questionnaire 2017

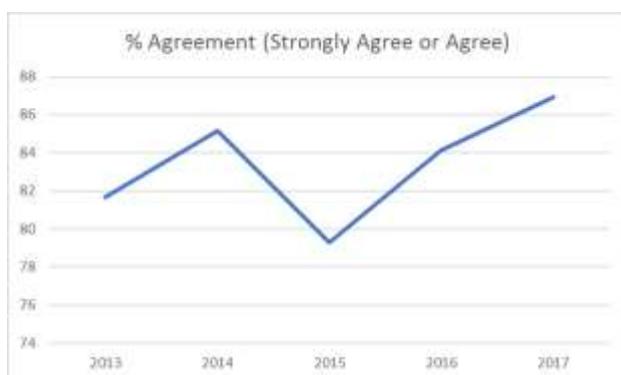
We are very grateful to all the parents who took the time to complete the recent Parent Questionnaire. As Governors, we rely on the questionnaire to give us valuable feedback that we can share with Mrs West and all the staff to understand where our strengths and weaknesses lie as a school. We can then use this information to make changes and improvements to ensure Oaklands is the best that it can be.

The results this year were the most positive since the current format was introduced. We are also delighted that we received 83 responses this year, which is 19 more than last year. The increased response rate also makes the results more robust and reliable. A full communication sharing all the results – and the actions we will be taking as a result has been issued but a brief synopsis is set out below:



- 23 out of 25 of the questions received over 80% overall agreement (either Strongly Agree or Agree)
- Overall agreement to all questions increased by 3% from 2016
- Our Thinking Schools agenda needs more explanation to parents (these were the 2 questions that scored the lowest in terms of overall agreement)
- The written comments have provided us with some fantastic feedback – both in terms of what we do well and what we could do better

The graph below sets out the overall results for the past 5 years:



As a Governing Body we do spend much time analysing and reviewing all of the results. Every comment is read and we will recommend changes where we believe they are feasible and achievable, so thank you once again to all of those parents who completed the questionnaire – it is very important to us.

Justine Waight