



Governors Annual Report

September 2016 - July 2017

This has been a challenging year and the Gravel Hill family has worked hard to achieve success. This has been recognised in our recent Ofsted inspection report which confirmed that the school continues to be good.

Some of the key points in the report recognised that:

- Work in books shows that pupils are making strong progress across the school, particularly in reading and mathematics.
- Assessment information is both reliable and accurate.
- Parents are supportive of the school and are confident that their children are happy, enjoy their learning and make progress.
- The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection and has an accurate picture of the school's strengths and areas for development.
- Staff morale is high and there is an air of enthusiasm and energy amongst the leaders, teachers and support staff.
- The leadership team, including governors, has created a strong culture of safeguarding in the school.

NB The full report is on the school website.

It is also good to report that we have now received our academy order.



Key Successes of the Year

- ✚ Our financial position is healthy and we once again have met the Schools Financial Value Standard.
- ✚ Our partnership with Uplands Primary is developing well prior to Gravel Hill joining them in the Unity Trust which we expect to happen in the Autumn Term.
- ✚ We have had several learning walks during the year, undertaken by a range of advisors, inspectors and other visitors, all of which have resulted in positive comments about the very good behaviour for learning in the school and how much the visitors have enjoyed talking to the pupils.

- ✚ Congratulations to the school for achieving 100% in the recent Health and Safety Audit for the third year running.
- ✚ We have held a wide range of themed weeks and days across the school year, these include: Maths Week, Loving Literacy Week, Science Week, Sports and Creativity Week and International Week, Red, White and Blue Day, Children in Need and Comic Relief.
- ✚ The Anti- Bullying Week involved all year groups and included outside agencies delivering assemblies and workshops to children and parents.
- ✚ Our PSHE programme ensures that children are taught about living in the wider world,. The topics include:
 - Rules and Responsibilities
 - Diversity
 - Discrimination
 - Economic Awareness
- ✚ Family support continues to be a strength of the school. A variety of workshops and events have proved very useful and popular including:
 - Boys will be Brilliant led by Gary Wilson
 - Phonics and Reading workshop for EYFS parents
 - Family Golden Time: Maths Puzzles, Christmas Art, Junk modelling, Music workshops and Golf
 - Community Tea
 - Family Bead Craft and
 - the Little Scientists
- ✚ Gravel Hill won the KM Literacy Award for the best parental involvement initiative to raise literacy.
- ✚ Our Y6 won the Borough Outdoor education festival at Danson Park and Y2 won the KS1 Infant Multiskills festival.
- ✚ Our Travel Plan is updated annually and currently is accredited by TFL (Transport for London) at Gold Level.
- ✚ We have been awarded the Gold Footsteps for Walking to School from Kent and the Best Green Champions Award for being environmentally friendly and walking to school.
- ✚ We have been entered in the Bexley in Bloom competition and achieved a Bronze award in all areas.
- ✚ School Council have been very active and organised an Easter Bonnet competition and several non-school uniform days.
- ✚ Singing Club attended the O2 Young Voices concert, along with 7000 plus other children. It was a great success and the children, parents and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

- ✚ Specialist music tuition in KS2 continued this year with ukulele lessons being provided as well as keyboard and recorders.
- ✚ Breakfast Club remains very popular
- ✚ The After School Club is proving popular but spaces are still available should you wish to make use of the service
- ✚ Other After School Clubs continue to thrive with a wide range of activities on offer.
- ✚ We are pleased to report that the Sports Grant money has had an impact. There is extended provision with more opportunities for the pupils to try different sports leading to increased pupil participation and raising of standards. It has also been used to promote healthy lifestyles which include workshops around healthy eating.
- ✚ The mini gym is open on Friday lunchtimes and we also have the Golden Mile operating at times during the week.
- ✚ The inter house competitions are proving very popular and the election of House Captains in the summer term generates a lot of enthusiasm and gives pupils the opportunity to see democracy in action.
- ✚ We continue to work with a number of secondary schools across KS2
- ✚ The School web site is up to date and informative. In order to improve communication important letters are now listed on the School Website

The Governors would like to thank pupils, staff, parents and carers for making Gravel Hill such a special place and congratulate everyone on all the success achieved this year.



Areas for Development

We need to:

- Continue in the drive to improve results, making sure that data on all year groups allows timely and effective interventions to have an impact.
- Continue to focus on the issue of mobility and the impact this has on the school family.
- Managing our budget as money gets tighter and more economies need to be found
- Keeping the excellent staff and finding ways to develop them
- Managing the change as we become a Local Governing Board as part of Unity Trust
- Continue to develop and strengthen our teams
- Develop more opportunities to talk to staff and pupils and explore different ways to communicate with parents

- Undertaking training to ensure governors have the knowledge required to help make informed decisions in the face of constant change

The Board of Governors

Andy Maxted and Hayley Trezel have joined the board as parent governors. We hope they enjoy the experience and look forward to working with them as we move the school forward to become an academy.

I am sorry to say that both Barry Peacock and Lynda Letchford have decided to resign. We are sorry to see them leave and thank them for their contribution to the work of the governors.

Miss Bridges has completed her term of office as a staff governor so we look forward to a new staff governor joining us in the autumn term.

Governor attendance at meetings is good. All our meetings have been quorate. A list showing attendance at meetings is on the web site.

The full board meets termly. We have three Committees, which also meet termly.

- **Curriculum:** where we consider the impact of the new curriculum and assessment arrangements and the progress and achievement of pupils, including SATS results etc.
- **Staffing:** where we consider the staffing needs of the school and how to manage the growth towards a full two-form entry school
- **Finance and General Purposes:** where we monitor spending against an agreed budget and look at anything to do with the buildings, grounds etc.

The Governors' three-year strategic plan is working well and we are on course to meet all our objectives. This is on the website.

The team approach continues to work well. When we undertake review visits between 2 - 6 governors take part. This enables us to see more during the visit and also gives more than one perspective on what we see. We then provide feedback to the Head Teacher and staff as well as other governors. We aim to visit at least once a term. On some of our visits we have been accompanied by Pupil Governors whose input has been very helpful.

Objectives for the year 2016 -2017

This year the Board of Governors has focused primarily on:

- Monitoring the implementation of the School Development Plan (SDP)
- Reviewing the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent by setting the budget, monitoring spending against the budget and ensuring value for money is obtained.
- Managing change as we move towards a two-form entry school and become an academy.

The Impact of Governors

Progress of the SDP has been monitored through team visits, talking to pupils and staff, asking questions at committee meetings and analysing data. Over the course of the year governors have:

- Spent time in classrooms while Maths and English were being taught and looked at the range of new resources available.
- Reviewed how CPDL was having a impact and how staff were working as teams to help children learn.
- Talked to pupils about their participation in intervention programmes and whether they felt it helped them in their learning.
- Looked at pupils' English books with a small group of children (it was good to hear the excitement and feel the enjoyment as they talked about the book and the work they were doing.)
- Talked to more able pupil about their learning experiences
- Carried out learning walks to see the pupil and staff at work - an opportunity to see the excellent behaviour for learning around the school.
- Focused on display around the school and in classrooms. We were particularly impressed by the quality of children's work on display
- Carried out Health and Safety walks
- Carried out safeguarding reviews and ensured that Single Central Register is kept up to date.
- Agreed the revised safeguarding policy
- Discussed projects to be completed in the next phase of development of the school.
- Monitored the use of Pupil Premium and the Sports Grant.
- Monitored the use of professional development and its impact both for staff and governors.
- Attended Parents evenings / community tea / open days / and some assemblies.

We look forward to another successful year at Gravel Hill Primary School.

Hazel Teale

Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Board of Governors