

## **Cove Junior School Chair of Governor's Report March 2019**

### Cove Junior School

Cove Junior School is a two and a half form entry junior school for pupils aged seven to eleven. At the time of writing there are 286 children on roll, of a possible 300. There are five lower school mixed age classes and six upper school classes that are distinctly either Year 5 or 6.

The school has lower than the national average of children with English as their second language, fewer than the national average of children receiving Free School Meals, and above the national average number of children with Special Educational Needs.

The average attendance at time of writing is 96.2%

### **School Governors**

The Cove Junior School Governing Body had recently been reconstituted to contain:

The Headteacher, a local authority governor, a staff governor, six co-opted governors and three parent governors. A total of twelve members of the Governing Body. Our meetings are minuted by a Local Authority clerk, Mrs. L. McBrearty.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Governor</b>	<b>Governor Role</b>	<b>Dates of service</b>
Mrs T. Hickie	Headteacher	Headteacher	Ongoing
Mrs S. Merry	Local Authority	Chair of Governors	Current term of office 4.4.17 – 3.4.21
Mrs C. Pickup	Co-opted	Chair of Finance and Personnel and Raising Standards Committees	Current term of office 26.11.18 – 25.11.22
Mrs S. Wright	Co-opted	Chair of the Health and Safety Committee	31.3.18 – 30.3.22
Mr W. Gargan	Co-opted	Deputy Headteacher	Current term of office 3.9.18 -2.9.22
Mr G. Payne	Co-opted		20.5.19 – 19.5.23
Miss E. Freeman	Staff		21.7.16 -20.7.20
Mrs E. Truffit	Parent		17.10.16 – 16.10.20
Mrs N. Roberts	Parent		15.10.18 – 14.10.22
Mrs S. Maddox	Parent		26.11.18 – 25.11.22
Mrs L. Shaw	Co-opted		16.7.19 – 15.7.23
Mrs K Brant	Co-opted		16.7.19 – 15.7.23

### **Progress since the 2018 Inspection**

After Cove Junior School's successful OFSTED inspection of 2018, in which the school was rated as 'GOOD', the SLT drew up their latest version of the School Improvement Plan. This plan is updated every year, regardless of Inspection, to lay out the strategic and tactical milestones planned for the coming academic year and beyond, based on the impact evaluation of the previous year's plan.

The Ofsted report listed the following main priorities:

Ensuring that Pupils' attainment and progress in writing continue to improve.

Ensuring that a greater proportion of middle attaining pupils meet and exceed the expected standards for their age in all subjects, but particularly for Maths.

Ensuring that Governors and Senior Leaders review the impact of the Pupil Premium strategy more effectively so that disadvantaged pupils make consistently good progress.

A full copy of the OFSED report can be found on the school's website or on the OFSTED website.

The current SSIP has these recommendations at its core, with ambitious attainment and progress targets set and school objectives tailored to have an impact on these key areas for development.

Over the previous academic year, good progress has been made against these targets, with monitoring visits occurring on a regular basis. For instance, staff now routinely model writing during class and have incorporated 'United Improvement' as a pupil-to-pupil way to use the staff examples to edit and improve written work.

### **Financial Statement**

The school follows the Manual of Finance guidelines as required by Hampshire County Council. They 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. Another main expenditure will be the creation of a new building. It is planned that this building will house the breakfast and after school clubs and, over time, will become available outside of school hours for community use.

The school can demonstrate that it seeks best value for money and has positively maintained good financial practices, as evidenced by regular financial audits undertaken by the school governors and the county Finance department.

The School's income for financial year 2018-19 was £1,305,081

The School's planned expenditure for the same financial period was expected to be £1,416,795 Although as yet the £100 000 allocated to the building project and included in the above figure has not been spent.

The school was able to carry forward £24,083 to the next financial year.

The Governing Body has agreed the new building, the replacement of an aging wi-fi system and updating of computer hardware to be financial priorities this financial year.

### **Site safety**

Cove Junior School takes the safety of its pupils and staff very seriously. External entrances and gates are locked between 9am and 3pm. Entry to the building is by key pad or buzzer to the office staff. Everyone entering the site must sign in and wear an identification badge whilst they are on the premises. Only adults who have successfully attained a DBS clearance certificate are left in charge of children. All relevant safeguarding information is held in a single central record for all adults regularly on site. All other adults on site must provide proof of a DBS certificate or will be accompanied at all times by a staff member.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Cove Junior School is an inclusive school. There is a comprehensive SEND policy, that can be found on the school website, that details the school's processes and provision for children with Special Educational Needs. This policy is reviewed every year and examined for fitness for purpose.

The school is a Victorian one, and does have steps between key areas of the school. There are external ramps in place to enable access from one part of the school to another. Accessibility is determined on a case by case basis. The accessibility plan is review annually, along with any updates to the Accessibility Policy so that the needs of current and successive pupils can be pinpointed and accommodated where possible to do so.

### **Staff Development Policy**

This governing body concurs with evidence that there is a clear link between high quality professional development provided to staff and the standards of teaching in schools. A budget is set aside for Continual Professional Development for school staff, alongside taking advantage of the apprenticeship levy, to maximise funding in this important area.

Each member of staff takes part in a performance management review, part of which includes a discussion about how each staff member would like to expand their professional knowledge.

### **Progress and Attainment data**

The most recent KS2 SATs results reveal that the school is performing broadly in line with the national average. Levels for progress are significantly below the national average, partly due to unusually high starting points gained from KS1 data.

Data dashboards can be found on the compare schools function of the Gov website, or on the Ofsted website.

### **Parent Survey**

This year's parent survey was based on the topic of online safety.

94% are fairly confident or very confident in managing their child's online safety.

75% use parental controls on devices their child accesses.

Only 16% say that their child has been affected negatively by online activity.

To provide further help with digital safety,  
10% would prefer a talk from an expert,  
26% would like a practical workshop  
52% would like information leaflets,  
12% would like parent forum

Some asked for more information to be given to the children and to be linked with anti bullying.

Talk attendance, 25 people definitely would attend, 11 if childcare was provided, 44 don't know yet, 20 will not be coming.

When should a child be allowed to bring a mobile phone to school?

70% think Year 7 or older.

### **In conclusion**

As you can see, the governing body has been working very hard to support the school in their constant strive to provide the very best educational experience for the children. I am delighted to say that we have a full cohort of governors at this time, but things do change; please consider joining us or another body as a school governor. It really is a hugely rewarding experience.