

## Bradley School – Governors’ Annual Report 2018-19

The role of the Governing Board at Bradleys Both is to support the school in achieving high educational standards which ensure that all our children are educated to their full potential.

The governors fulfil their remit by:-

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic directions;
- holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that money is effectively spent.

During 2018-19:-

1. Governors retained the committee structure agreed in 2017 in respect of governance. This meant that the Full Governing Body dealt additionally with Curriculum and Improvement and Finance, Personnel, Premises and Health and Safety rather than these being dealt with by sub-committees. The advantage of this change is that all governors have a broader knowledge of what is going on in the school and, most importantly, less time is spent by the Full Governing Body hearing about the work of sub-committees which means that more time is available to spend on measuring and developing strategy.
2. The Governors again held a year end strategic meeting and confirmed that they continued to support the school operating a values focussed approach to what we do to underpin our desire to make a happy, creative environment where children establish the building blocks for the lifelong adventure in learning and achievement. The L.I.F.E. principle is now well established in the school and is well understood by children, staff and the community.
3. Governors agreed the new School Improvement Plan (SIP) with the headteacher. In order to make governors impact more effective we agreed that each governor would be linked to a part of the SIP rather than, as previously, to a particular class. The aim of this was to improve the impact of the governors and help ensure that their work had a direct effect on improvement within the school.

4. Throughout the year our Full Governing Board agendas continued to focus on the key issues for governors: strategy, performance and the effective use of resources. Financial resources continue to be an area of great concern at a time when there are many cost increases over which governors have no or little control whilst funding continues to be restricted. Governors are concerned by the reduction of free support from the Local Authority caused by reduced national funding.
5. Governors have recognised the need to put the well-being of both pupils and staff at the centre of everything we do. Staff have received training in this area, in some cases to a high level, and we are grateful to Compass Buzz for the support they have provided to the school in this area.
6. We reviewed the educational performance of the school and its pupils at every meeting, including a detailed annual review of progress and achievements for the previous academic year. In the opinion of the governors the level of attainment, whilst sometimes challenging, is good and, in some areas, outstanding.
7. We received reports from the headteacher on the performance of the school at every meeting on which questions were asked and answered. A specific area of focus continues to be around reading, writing and phonics and, more recently, around mathematics where governors continue to monitor the success of planned interventions.
8. We completed our annual assessment under the Schools Financial Values Standard (SFVS) and approved our annual budget. Matching expenditure to the available funding remains increasingly challenging in the current environment. In reviewing options to save money, governors remain mindful of the need to make decisions in the best interests of our children's' education and safeguarding.

I would like to thank my fellow governors for their time and efforts in supporting the school's leadership team to deliver a fantastic educational experience to our children.

John Midgley  
September 2019