



Oxfordshire County Council

HAILEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hailey, Witney, Oxon, OX29 9UB

Hailey School Governing Body Newsletter

October 2019

Introduction

Welcome to this term's Hailey School Governors' newsletter. For staff and parents new to the school, this newsletter aims to give you a better idea of the role of the governing body and how it is working with Mrs Davies and staff members to add value to the school.

In this edition, we will be covering the following:

- School plan priorities:
how we did 2018/19 and what we're doing 2019/20
- Parent and pupil survey feedback
- The importance of reading
- Governing body membership

School Plan Priorities

We want to update you on how we are doing against the priorities in our Raising Achievement Plan: the equivalent to a business plan for schools, and what we have planned for this year.

Priority 1: Leadership and Management

Our main objective was to explore collaboration options with other schools. Whilst we have shared training opportunities and ideas for improvement, and we continue to work closely with other schools in the Witney Partnership, there were no suitable formal collaboration opportunities identified.

Another focus last year was maximising income and cutting costs so we can withstand increasing pressures on the school budget. While we achieved some successes, including raising £8500 from grants for our peace pod, the finances continue to be very tight. The best way to optimise our income is to fill every space in every class so if you know of any parents locally who are looking for a school place for their child, whether it be in nursery or foundation or the older classes, do please encourage them to get in touch.

Our leadership focus this year will be on staff wellbeing to identify ways to help manage workload and maintain a healthy work/life balance to ensure we retain our excellent staff. We will continue to look for professional development opportunities for our staff which will of course benefit the children too.

Priority 2: Quality of Education

We are very pleased to report that all our targets for progress and attainment benchmarked

against national data were met, bar one, and in many cases exceeded, with some excellent working in greater depth scores for key stages one and two, which was a particular focus for us. (i.e. the amount of pupils who are achieving above the expected level of performance.) The number of children meeting expected standards in KS2 far exceeded national data in all subjects, with progress scores also above the national standard for all subjects.

The staff and children have worked really hard to achieve this and we wanted to reiterate our thanks. Targeted support for children at all levels, with extra teaching initiatives in maths and literacy, including additional interventions for children working at greater depth, really helped the school exceed its targets. The support of parents with homework, reading and topic work has also been vital.

A new in-school assessment system was also introduced last year which is helping track the progress of children throughout the year, benchmarked against other schools.

This year we will continue to strive to achieve good progress and attainment for all year groups, including the number of children working at greater depth. Another objective is to clearly define the knowledge and skills gained by each year group for each subject across the curriculum, and more information on that will soon be available on our website.

Priority 3: Behaviour and Safety

Results from parent and pupil surveys show that Hailey School continues to provide outstanding levels of behaviour, attendance and safety, and that our school values of love and tolerance are supported strongly by the school community.

Overall pupil attendance of 97% (putting us in the top 10% of schools) continues to provide benefits for children's wellbeing and development, as well as their learning.

A key focus last year was on promoting e-safety with the school community in an increasingly technological age, and lots of work was done on this during anti-bullying week which will continue this year, with a special parent e-safety event planned.

Priority 4: Personal Development

The school aims to balance academic progress with the development of healthy, confident and caring children through a diverse offering of sports, cultural and spiritual activities, in close coordination with the church. Last year there was a focus on emotional and physical health. A number of initiatives were run in the school: Anti-bullying week, Science week, One-World week and Health & Safety week, as well as the diverse topic activities and school visits that each class enjoys each term.

In addition, there were a number of inter-school sports competitions that the children took part in as well as the 'Young Leaders Programme:' taking children from years 5 and 6 to help staff run lunchtime sports activities for pupils at the school. This year's focus will be on ensuring the mental wellbeing of our children.

Priority 5: Early Years

The recently updated Ofsted framework has reinforced the importance of the Early Years (Nursery and Foundation). Our focus this year will be on continuing to plan and deliver an engaging curriculum for Early Years that 'makes every interaction count.'

Parent and Pupil Survey Feedback

Parent Survey Results

A huge thank you to those parents who filled in the parent survey. We got a 45% response rate: almost half the families in the school. Hailey School has performed extremely well with most answers meeting the description of "outstanding" as defined by the National Governors Association (80% or above), including all five of the questions ranked as most important by our families. We are also pleased to see that 100% of nursery parents felt the school helped their child settle in quickly, and that 100% of all parents would recommend the school to another parent.

These are an outstanding set of results from a statistically significant base and the governors want to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of our school community: the staff and leadership team should be justifiably proud.

Top 5 questions of importance, ranked by parents and carers (school survey)

Happiness

My child is happy at this school: 97% strongly agree or agree

The school has a happy atmosphere: 100% agree

Progress

My child makes good progress at this school: 97% strongly agree or agree

Safety

My child feels safe at this school: 94% strongly agree or agree

Lack of bullying

My child is not bullied or harassed at this school: 88% strongly agree or agree (3% say N/A)

Good behaviour

The school makes sure the children are well behaved: 97% strongly agree or agree

As happens each year, the survey results have been discussed with staff and governors. We are always looking for opportunities for further school improvement, so we will be focusing on feedback we received on a few themes that emerged in some of the parents' comments.

Strengths

Some wonderful comments were made which highlighted the friendly, nurturing and supportive community at the school, how hardworking and caring the teachers were as well as the strong leadership. There were also many statements about the great balance of personal and academic development with a wide-ranging and enjoyable curriculum incorporating lots of different activities.

"Hailey School's strength is definitely making the school feel a safe, thriving environment for the child and parent but while still maintaining a professional yet caring team."

Areas for discussion

It should be noted that almost all answers were above 80%: i.e. the responses were still outstanding, but we noted a few themes which came out in the comments at the end.

➤ Feedback on Marking & Homework

There are differing views about the feedback the school provides around the marking of homework. This is an area that the head teacher will be discussing with staff as homework also features strongly in staff feedback. There will be more information to follow from the school about the homework we set, why it is set and how you can help them with this. There will also be information clarifying what marking you can expect for the homework.

➤ Being active/sports

A small number of parents would like to see a greater variety of sports provided by the school although the majority (85%) of parents were happy with what is provided. This is supported by the pupil surveys which show a strong satisfaction with the amount of sports on offer across year groups and how enjoyable they are. As elaborated in the sports report in the governor newsletter last year, additional sports clubs have been set up, lunchtime sessions are being run by sports leaders as well as in-school PE with our new school sports coach, Mr Zac Way, and pupils take part in inter-school tournaments. The new running track has been installed and we now have new goalposts!

➤ Support with staying safe online

One in five parents did not feel confident helping their child stay safe online and this is an area of ongoing focus for the school. The school has already provided some online resources for parents as well as in-school sessions for pupils and more will be provided this year, with a particular focus during anti-bullying week.

Hailey School has signed up for an online safety toolkit provided by National Online Safety and aims to become a certified e-safety school which recognises our commitment to keeping pupils safe online. There will also be resources made available to parents in the form of newsletters, video resources and 'how to' guides.

Pupil Surveys

The surveys were extremely positive across all year-groups. Great scores on resilience, on getting support from teachers and on enjoyment of school and different activities including sports. One world week, science week and topic homework were viewed very positively across all year groups.

The year 6 survey, which asks questions about pupils' experience over their whole time at school, was particularly positive. 93% of year 6's said they had enjoyed their time at Hailey School, and, importantly, that they felt prepared to go on to secondary school.

Years 3-5 also enjoyed being at school (97%) and taking part in lots of different sports (93%) and 100% said that even when their work is difficult they don't give up and they try their best. 95% said they thought this was a good school.

Infants and Foundation showed a similar pattern with 97% of children saying they thought it was a good school and that they enjoyed lots of different sporting activities and saying even when their work was hard they don't give up and they try their best.

The Importance of Reading

This year has seen the introduction of the Reading Chest and we would like to enlist parents' support in helping ensure their child does read regularly, at least 4 times a week. Reading is such an important tool to improve a child's vocabulary, it leads to more highly-developed language skills and also improves the child's ability to write well. Reading also helps children to learn about people, places and events beyond their own experience. We hope we can enlist your support with helping your child read, including reading to them as well as listening to them read to you.

Governing Body Membership

We currently have three vacancies for co-opted governors, so if you are aware of any friends or family who may be interested in the local community, do please ask them to get in touch. We say a fond farewell and huge thanks to 3 governors: Sorcha Dyer, Torica Back and Jane Carr and to our associate member, Anne-Marie Fisher.

Hailey School Governing Body

Co-opted

Graham Simpson
Tony Hubbard
vacancies x 3

Foundation

Glinys Weller
Position filled
Staff Governor
Sharon Jenkins

County

vacancy

Head Teacher

Debbie Davies

Parent

Judie Miskimmin-Jones
Sam Amy
Steve Alman (Chair)
Matthew Anderson

Associate Members

Rev Ness Whiffin
Eve Smith

Clerk

Liz Jarrett

We hope you found this newsletter informative. Any comments on how it could be improved would be gratefully received; please email office.3123@hailey.oxon.sch.uk fao Eve Smith.