

## Report from The Summercroft Board of Governors, Summer 2016

### Members of the Board and their category:

|                                                                 |                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carole Hinstridge                                               | Headteacher               |
| Julia Anderson, safeguarding governor                           | Parent                    |
| Elaine Bailey, Chair of the Learning & Pupil Progress Committee | Parent                    |
| Annette Burns, SEND governor                                    | Staff                     |
| Sophie Evans                                                    | Staff                     |
| Kevin Goodeve, Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee     | Parent                    |
| Stephen Jess                                                    | Staff; Deputy Headteacher |
| Michael Kirby, Vice Chair of Governors                          | Community                 |
| Jerome O’Gorman, Chair of the Learning Environment Committee    | Parent                    |
| Matthew Piper                                                   | Parent                    |
| Simon Parry                                                     | Community                 |
| Simon Watkins                                                   | Parent                    |
| Tim Winstanley, Chair of Governors                              | Community                 |

In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all Governing Boards, we have three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Following the Ofsted inspection Nov 2014 the Governing board has been especially focused on delivery of the “single plan” to improve the quality of “teaching and learning” and “strengthen leadership and management” within the school.

**Effective Governance:** Part of the work last academic year was to review of how effective the Governors were at monitoring and challenging the leadership and teaching standards. After an external review we made changes this year to improve how we meet as a Governing Board, share information on pupil progress, plan visits to monitor progress and capture the “challenge” from the Governors.

The Governing Board at Summercroft is supported by two committees who meet separately:

- **The Finance & Resources Committee** chaired by Kevin Goodeve meets termly supported by Mrs Rosie Smith, Summercroft’s Bursar. The committee is responsible for developing the school’s budget (vast majority being staff costs) and scrutinising how it is spent through the year. It manages any staffing, premises and maintenance issues that arise through the year (including Capital grant application), ensure monitoring of the School’s financial controls and externally auditing of the annual accounts with Price Bailey.
- **The Learning and Pupil Progress Committee** chaired by Elaine Bailey focuses on the curriculum, how it is taught, monitoring teaching quality, monitoring quality of leadership and management, pupils’ progress and performance data which includes SATs results. Particular focus this year has been to develop the role of the Subject leaders to take direct

responsibility for their areas, particularly for improving the quality of teaching and in holding teams to account for the progress of their pupils

The Governing Board established clear **monitoring plans** at the beginning of the year with individual governors tasked with visits covering our Statutory Duties (SEND, Safeguarding), Curriculum (Maths, Science, Literacy and Computing) and Leadership and Management. The focus has been to ensure the visits are focussed on the school's priorities, effective and visit reports distributed to the Board.

**Pupil Progress data:** Given the importance of the L&PP committee to the success of the single plan two of the six full Governing Board meetings were dedicated to reviewing and challenging the pupil progress data. This was also complimented by Training for Governors on the new Herts for Learning assessment system which replaced the "levels" used in prior years. With this change in system the Governors wanted to ensure the assessments the school makes are accurate and rigorous using internal and external moderation. The data showed the growing confidence and consistency through the year. Data is now used by teachers to focus on closing gaps for children who are not making expected progress.

**External Support:** The school as engaged a Hertfordshire Improvement Partner, Ann Keen who provides on-going support and advice to the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team in monitoring the quality of teaching and learning across the school. Governors were represented during these HIP visits to gain an additional external perspective of "Progress to Good" and witness monitoring of the School leadership team.

#### **Impact Assessment:**

**Governance** was assessed as part of a "Mocksted" inspection by Herts for Learning in May which reviewed progress against the issues raised by Ofsted.

"They are confident to ask more challenging questions because they are given more information which is accessible and because there is a good open relationship with the SLT. Their minutes show if they are not happy with the first answer which the leaders give them and probe for more detail where needed. They are very aware of the range of monitoring and evaluation activities which the leaders undertake and have carried some out themselves, for example book scrutiny. The governors are aware of the picture of teaching and know about any underperformance."

"The Governor visit reports scrutinised during the review are of a high quality because they are focussed on the key priorities and because they include actions and questions to take back to their colleagues".

**2016 Results:** Very positive progress with all KS2 above national outcomes with strong evidence of good progress compared to other Herts schools.

- 76.3% of Reception children achieved the GLD.
- KS1 reading 79.7%, writing 72.9%, maths 81.4% at expected or above.
- Year 1 phonic screening 90%.
- Year 2 phonic screening re-takes 1/5 achieved the expected standard.
- KS2 reading 77%, writing 78.7%, GPS 90.2% maths 91.8%. R,W,r,M 65.6%.

**Teaching quality:** 87% of teaching is now at least good with 20% outstanding over time

It has been another very demanding year for everyone associated with Summercroft. However, the new ways of working, increased accountability, closer scrutiny by governors, strengthened Subject and Senior Leadership team are all in place. Staff at all levels in the school are working with energy and enthusiasm on behalf of your children, and parents' support continues to be central to our work as we move into the next academic year. The 2016 results are a fantastic reflection of the progress that has been made towards securing "Good" Ofsted status. The governors would like to thank Mrs Hintridge, Mr Jess and Mrs Bugg for their Leadership of the school; the classroom teachers and TAs for providing challenge and excitement to pupils; Mrs Smith, Bursar, for her outstanding work; the site team for maintaining 'the learning environment'; and the office staff and MSAs who provide the support that enable children to learn safely and happily.

*Tim Winstanley*

Chair of Governors

Summer 2016