

Federation of Boldmere Schools

Governor update | spring term 2018

Welcome message

Welcome to the first edition of the Governor update for 2018. As I am sure pupils, staff and parents would agree the first term of the 2017-18 academic year has flown by and both schools continue to work collaboratively to provide the very best primary education for the children of Boldmere Infant and Junior schools.

The governing board has adapted to some changes in the first part of the school year. I was very proud and privileged to be nominated the new chair of governors last term. I am very lucky to be in a position to work alongside a strong and supportive team of governors. I am grateful that long standing governor Anne Darby has been re-elected as vice chair and I look forward to working alongside the schools senior leadership team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Hindle, our previous chair, for all his hard work and I am pleased that Chris will remain with the governing board in his role as LA governor.

A long awaited official welcome to Dan Mortiboys (associate governor), Christina Engers (parent governor) and Charlotte Cresswell (associate governor). We look forward to utilising their knowledge and skills which I am sure will only strengthen our governing board.

Greg Bloom
Chair of Governors

Outstanding SATS achievement 2016-17

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the school on our outstanding SATS results for 2016-17. The outcomes were as follows:

- % of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined: school **87%**, national average 61%
- % of pupils achieving the higher standard in reading, writing and maths combined: school **17%**, national average 9%.
- % of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading: school **93%**, national average 71%
- % of pupils achieving a higher standard in reading: school **60%**, national average 25%
- % of pupils achieving the expected standard in writing: school **89%**, national average 76%
- % of pupils achieving a higher standard in writing: school **17%**, national average 18%
- % of pupils achieving the expected standard in maths: school **93%**, national average 66%
- % of pupils achieving a higher standard in maths: school **66%**, national average 23%
- % of pupils achieving the expected standard in grammar, punctuation and spelling: school **92%**, national average 77%
- % of pupils achieving the higher standard in grammar, punctuation and spelling: school **66%**, national average 31%

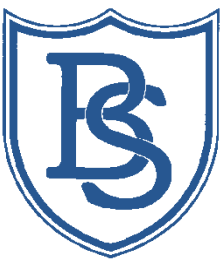
The governing board were delighted to see all the hard work of pupils, staff and parents/carers pay off and were incredibly proud to recently find out that **these results place us as the 4th best performing school in Birmingham**, which is quite an achievement. Governors closely monitored pupil progress throughout the 2016-17 academic year and witnessed the effective delivery of the curriculum, enabling pupils to demonstrate working at the expected standard and at greater depth. The Board continue to monitor this area of the school's work so that further successes can be achieved this academic year.

The governing board are fully aware of the challenges that exist in maintaining these high standards of attainment and achievement. I am sure parents/carers will join the governors in congratulating Carl Glasgow, Nicky Silverwood, Samantha Kenny and all of our dedicated hard working staff for this outstanding achievement. We are very lucky to have such a talented group of teachers and support staff within both schools.

Get in touch

The governors welcome parents' feedback and questions. Please email us via the clerk, Karen Armitage at k.armitage@boldmere.bham.sch.uk.





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Additional Special Educational Needs provision at Boldmere

The governing board has been absolutely delighted to support the proposal of the addition of a Resource Based Unit (RBU) for pupils with Special Educational Needs, a much needed educational resource at our schools.

This will see the introduction a new building at the school, which will give pupils diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) access to specialist resources and staff as appropriate to them.

We have worked closely with the school and the Local Authority over the past twelve months to strategically plan for the addition of this facility.

We were delighted to recently receive approval from the 'decision makers' and now the Board will continue to collaborate with all involved to ensure that this exciting area of our work is successfully implemented and managed effectively to meet the needs of the children in our care.

Governor visits

Each term, members of the governing board attend both schools to undertake a governor walk visit which focuses on a specific areas of the curriculum or school life.

In term one, governors focused on behaviour management across the schools and British Values as part of curriculum provision. We also focused on assessment outcomes, so that we have a clear understanding of the schools' performance against local and national averages.

Attending the schools and meeting some of the pupils is always one of the highlights of being a governor. All children at both schools greet the governors with enthusiasm and confidence and are more than happy to share their experiences.

Governors witnessed an effective behaviour management strategy delivered holistically across both schools. Mrs Mason and Mrs Welch from the senior leadership team have provided both schools with a well-structured approach to positive behaviour management.

Amazing PTA!

The governing board are fully aware of the financial challenges that face schools over the next few years. Alongside the senior leadership team, we continue to ensure the schools are financially viable and adequately resourced.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and hardworking PTA that continues to provide a huge amount of support to both schools. This not only comes through dedicated funding streams but through supporting the school in developing community cohesion and strengthening of the Boldmere family. I for one enjoy all of the organised events, which help to raise money for both schools and would like to thank parents/ carers for their on-going support.

The school has received vital additional funds that have enabled them to improve IT provision at the school, curriculum enhancement opportunities such as theatre visits and cinema trips, improvement to the infant library area, books for all the children at Christmas and much, much more.

The Board would like to express its sincere gratitude to our PTA: you do a remarkable job!

We would also like to thank the school family for your continued support – please keep it up!

The role of school governors

A common question asked of governors is 'what is your role?'. The purpose of the governing body is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance. Specifically, governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent