



**Ravenfield Primary Academy**  
**LOCAL GOVERNING BODY**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**For Parents and Carers**

**December 2018**

## Dear Parents and Carers

In our first local governing body (LGB) newsletter, we included information to give you a 'feel' for some of the responsibilities of the LGB and the ways in which governance works in the context of Maltby Learning Trust.

In this newsletter, as we move towards the end of a busy term for the school, we would like to share with you some aspects of the life of the school and its governance that we have been discussing:

**School improvement priorities** – a key focus of the LGB is the *impact* of development/improvement priorities which are captured in detailed operational plans. These include strategies to further develop approaches to *teaching and learning* including *assessment for learning* (which helps staff to design learning which meets the needs of individuals), developments in the *learning environment* and a particular focus on *literacy* including *phonics*. Governors are confident that all these developments will contribute towards achieving our rationalised school aims - **Successful learners, Confident individuals, Responsible citizens** translated, for our children, into a memorable motto '**Achieving our best together**'. As we receive progress reports at meetings, the LGB's strategic focus, will be the extent to which development work is reflected in improvements to provision and outcomes for pupils of *all* abilities.

**Further development of governance** – we have continued to engage in self-evaluation activities to identify our own areas for development too. A new action plan has been drawn up and will be added to during the year to ensure that our practice as an LGB reflects the expectations at a national level and within our Trust. Some governors have engaged in training and development activity this term and more is planned for later in the year. Ravenfield governors continue to contribute to the work of the MLT and are helping to shape governance practice at a Trust level.

**Parent/Carer survey** – although parents have been asked for their views by school leaders before, we are beginning to address the requirement placed upon the LGB to have in place '*mechanisms for enabling the board to listen, understand and respond to the voices of parents/carers*'. Thank you to those of you who completed our survey, which was this time, analysed by our chair of governors. Returns reflected views on behalf of 134 pupils, a significant increase on the 80 returns at the time of the last Ofsted inspection.

- More detailed outcomes of the survey will shortly be placed on the school website, but here we would like to share a few 'headlines' and ways this is already influencing the focus of LGB discussions.

- We were delighted that for 7 out of 12 questions, positive responses were between 90% and 99%, 4 questions received between 84% and 89% positive responses and the lowest positive response was still at 69%.
- The vast majority of parents agree or strongly agree that their child(ren) **feel safe** and are **happy at school**, are **well looked after** and the school makes sure its pupils are **well behaved**. Governors were especially pleased that the survey illustrated how happy children are at Ravenfield, given that the first two weeks of term could have been very unsettling with our Year 5 and 6 learners needing to spend their first two critical weeks of term in temporary accommodation at Maltby Academy. Governors were especially grateful to the staff at both schools for the efforts taken to ensure the arrangements for our children were so successful. We hope you agree that the much-improved accommodation for these year groups was worth the little longer wait.
- The now very positive judgement about **how well the school is led and managed** was especially pleasing as was the response to whether you would **recommend the school to another parent**. Just 1% would *not* recommend us now which was a huge improvement on almost half of responding parents who would not have recommended the school in January. Governors hope that as the many changes taking place around school under Mrs Hepworth's leadership begin to be embedded, the 18 parents who were yet to make up their mind about this key question, will soon feel sufficiently confident in the school to say 'yes' they *would* recommend the school next time governors ask.
- In terms of the school's core business of **teaching and learning**, you indicated a high level of confidence. This is a strong foundation on which to build but detailed analysis of pupil progress does show that we can still do even better for a number of our children. Governors have been discussing with Mrs Hepworth, ways in which more information can be shared with you about the progress of your children during the year and how the school can assist you to gain a greater insight into the national expectations that children should be achieving by the end of each year and key stage.
- Although 84% responded positively, a number of you felt that **homework** needed to be looked at to ensure this better matches the learning needs of each child. This was one of the areas that we will be discussing with staff in response to the survey – not the detail of *actual* homework as that is an operational matter, but the LGB will want to know how the homework policy reflects the LGB's high ambitions for our learners.

- Whilst still a positive picture at 69%, it was clear that the school has some more work to do to communicate with you about how it is **dealing with bullying and cyber bullying** as 28% felt they didn't know the answer to this question. As is often the case, many of you indicated this was because you had no experience of bullying or cyber bullying which is good, but governors will still be asking for regular feedback from staff on the strategies in place and new ones being explored to make sure that *all* parents know the school's approaches from the moment their children join our school.

Again, thank you for contributing to the work of the LGB by completing the survey. Our ambition is that future surveys will show the impact of the school's work as illustrated by an incremental shift towards even higher positive judgements from you as the parents/carers of children attending Ravenfield.

We also hope soon to be able to report interest in our recently advertised parent governor vacancy and to welcome a new parent to the LGB.

Governors hope you and your children enjoy being a part of the seasonal festivities in school and with your family over the Christmas break.

With best wishes from  
Members of the Local Governing Body

<b>MEMBERS OF YOUR LOCAL GOVERNING BODY</b>		
Local Governing Bodies in all Maltby Learning Trust Primary Academies are made up of 12 members as follows:		
<b>Elected Parent governors</b>	<b>Appointed Community/ Business governors</b>	
Scott Brighton Vacancy Lynsey Hobson (Vice Chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz Buxton (Chair)</li> <li>• Steve Davis</li> <li>• Jenny Jaques</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachael Marsh</li> <li>• Emma Peach</li> <li>• Vacancy</li> </ul>
<b>Elected Staff governors</b>	<b>Academy Principal</b>	
Sam Brown Vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lisa Hepworth is automatically an LGB member</li> </ul>	

**Ravenfield Primary Academy**

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