



Ravenfield Primary Academy
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY
NEWSLETTER
For Parents and Carers

July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Governors hope that you are finding these newsletters helpful in gaining an insight into the work of the Local Governing Body (LGB) and governance at Maltby Learning Trust (MLT) level too.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the **revised Ofsted inspection Framework** has now been published and members of the LGB have attended training and been briefed in meetings on these changes. As anticipated, the new framework includes a very marked focus on the quality of the curriculum experience provided for children in all schools. Future inspections from September 2019 will focus on:

- Curriculum **INTENT** i.e. what is taught, when and importantly, why;
- Curriculum **IMPLEMENTATION** of each individual school's curriculum plan, focusing on the quality of teaching and learning;
- The **IMPACT** the chosen curriculum has on learner's attainment and achievements.

What children experience during their time at Ravenfield will consequently continue to be an important focus of staff development and governor's discussions in the Autumn.

As you are aware, governors have 3 core functions and these sit very well alongside the new Curriculum model. Curriculum intent, is very much part of governor's responsibility for the **strategic direction** the academy takes. Receiving progress reports and making governor visits linked to curriculum implementation is a key part of governor's responsibility for **holding leaders to account**, as is our scrutiny of performance outcomes. Especially at times of change, governor's responsibility to make sure that the academy is getting the best possible value from the funding available to us is an important aspect of our third core function which focuses on **financial probity** and our responsibilities along with MLT for significant amounts of public money.

At this time of year the Trust is involved in **setting the budget** for MLT as a whole and all its partner academies. At our most recent meeting, governors received information about income for 2019-20 and the plans for expenditure. We were acutely aware of how little 'room for manoeuvre' there is within our individual academy budget that is getting tighter every year. Governors feel it is important that everyone is aware that MLT are bridging the shortfall between our income and expenditure this year without which some unwelcome reductions in

expenditure would be inevitable. We are also receiving additional support for further improvements soon to be made to the outside environment. Already looking forward to 2020-21, we are acutely aware that the number of children reaching school age in our community appears to be much lower than usual in September 2019. As the main part of any school's budget is based on pupil numbers, the implications of this for future planning is a concern for governors and MLT. We would appreciate your help if you are aware of any families in the area who haven't yet registered for a school place - please urge them to do this.

There are a number of reporting requirements that those responsible for governance of all schools must meet. At the end of each year, governors receive a report from senior leaders on how the **PE and School Sport funding grant** has been used, and importantly what impact this had had on our pupils and staff development. In keeping with other MLT schools, much of the grant is used to purchase specialist coaching and other support to ensure our children have access to a wide range of physical education and sporting opportunities.

Another important area of scrutiny for governors is the provision the school makes for children with **Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities**, usually referred to as SEND. At our July meeting the annual SEND report was received and governors had an opportunity to review and approve this for publication. The report outlines the range of provision to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities including references to the external agencies e.g. Learning Support Service and Educational Psychology Service which assist staff to match support to individual's needs. The *impact* of the school's work to support all learners including those with special needs is always a focus of governor discussions. We don't, of course, discuss individual children, but talk about the wide range of special needs and the strategies the school uses to ensure the curriculum provision meets the needs of all children. If you would like to read more about this, the annual SEND report will shortly be available on the Academy website as will the PE and Sport funding report mentioned above.

And finally, as this is the last governor newsletter of this school year, may we take the opportunity to place on record the gratitude of both the Local Governing Body and Maltby Learning Trust to Mrs Lisa Hepworth who is leaving Ravenfield at the end of this term. Mrs Hepworth stepped in to lead the school at very short notice last September and governors recognise how hard she has worked to guide the academy through another challenging year. The feedback from parents and carers shortly after Mrs Hepworth's arrival indicated that her

commitment to being ‘out and about’ around school so she could get to know you all, as well as all your children, was much welcomed. Mrs Hepworth has worked tirelessly this year to lead improvements in the provision the school is making for all children and support all the staff team to play their part in this. Governors, and we hope parents too, have witnessed these many improvements, but it is all the more encouraging when external reviews which are commissioned from time to time, also see what we are seeing. These reviews have consistently recognised the quality of Mrs Hepworth’s leadership and how developments this year are now impacting positively on the work of the staff and importantly, the rates of pupil progress. Mrs Hepworth’s enormous contribution will provide a strong foundation for our new Principal, Mrs Caroline Coates, to build upon in September. We are sure that everyone will want to join governors in expressing our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Hepworth who has left a strong and indelible mark on Ravenfield Primary Academy.

It’s been a very busy but productive year at Ravenfield and we were delighted to hear that time has *still* been found for the academy to achieve the **Rotherham Anti-Bullying Award 2018-19**, which is reflection of the consistently effective work in this aspect of school life – well done to everyone as this is a real team effort! Governors hope that everyone has a happy and safe summer break and look forward to seeing you and many new parents and children in September.

With best wishes from
Members of the Local Governing Body

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

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