



Ravenfield Primary Academy
LOCAL GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER
For Parents and Carers

October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome from the governors to all our new families joining Ravenfield Primary Academy this term. These newsletters provide an opportunity for governors to communicate directly with parents and carers of children attending our academy. We hope you find it useful to hear about governance arrangements and areas our discussions and visits focus upon over the year. We will soon have a notice board near the front entrance too, which will also provide information about governance.

One of our governors, **Rachael Marsh**, stepped down this term and a letter of thanks and appreciation for her years of service to Ravenfield as Community/Business governor was sent on behalf of local governors and Maltby Learning Trust.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TRUST GOVERNANCE

The Maltby Learning Trust Board have recently made some changes to the arrangements for local governance of all its academies.

- Local governing bodies have been renamed **Local Governance Committees (LGC)** a change designed more clearly to convey the LGC's role as a *formally constituted committee* of the Trust Board.
- The membership of LGCs from this term will be slightly reduced too. The **constitution** still enables our discussions to be informed by contributions from the perspectives of parents, employees, business & wider community.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LGCS & MALTBY LEARNING TRUST BOARD

- The Trust has a number of other committees with oversight of all MLT Academies. All LGCs cannot be represented on *all* these committees otherwise the process of governance becomes too unwieldy, but we are fortunate that one of our governors, Emma Peach, sits on the Trust's **Staffing, Finance, Resources and Audit Committee (SFRA)** ensuring that governors at Ravenfield have additional insight into the overall governance arrangements for these aspects of the work of the Trust.
- Chairs of governors also meet with the CEO and trust representatives which complements the system, introduced during last year, to improve the **two-way communication between the board** and LGCs. We now receive written reports of key discussions/actions taken at board and trust level committees.

- A new Trust committee has recently been established which will maintain oversight of the **Standards and Performance** of all MLT academies. Ravenfield is not alone in having areas where pupil outcomes need to be higher, so governors look forward to the outcomes of the new committee's discussions and trust-wide initiatives to improve performance overall.

GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT

One of our three meetings so far this term was devoted entirely to **self-evaluation activity and action planning** for our own development as a LGC. Just as all schools need to review the impact of their work and identify targets for still further improvement, governors need to do the same. The record of training and development activities shows a real commitment amongst your LGC members to attend training and enter into discussions to develop our own skills, knowledge and understanding of some of the complex issues faced by all schools. Recent training has focused on **Safeguarding** issues and the review of the Trust's **Scheme of Delegation**, the document which sets out roles and responsibilities at different tiers of governance. Our two new staff governors are currently attending a series of four evening sessions on **Induction** for those new to governance, which is a big commitment on top of a full day at work!

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DISCUSSING?

- Our LGC and RAC (Raising Attainment & Curriculum) meetings have focused on a **review of 2018-19 results** and our new **Principal's initial assessment of areas for improvement**. Mrs Coates' analysis closely mirrored the findings of a **Deep Learning Review** which took place early in the term which was most encouraging and ensures governors can be confident that the right priorities for improvement are being identified.
- Following this, governors ratified the **academy improvement priorities** for the coming year which focus on **further development of teaching and learning strategies** designed to accelerate the progress of all our learners, the **Curriculum** unique to Ravenfield and on developing **positive learning 'behaviours'**. We will be discussing progress in our meetings throughout the year and making visits to see the **impact** of developments.
- We have approved **targets** for pupil outcomes and for attendance.
- Governors have received detailed information about the rigorous processes in place across the Trust for **staff appraisal** although governors do not discuss the performance of individual staff or children.

- If any new parents would like to read our previous newsletters, these are available on the Ravenfield website.

PARENT/CARER SURVEY

Early in each year, governors now conduct a survey of parents/carers **to seek feedback which then informs our discussions with staff**. We will be conducting this survey around the two parent's evenings when some governors will be attending to meet informally with you too. Please help us by completing a questionnaire. Last year we had 134 responses – it would be wonderful if we could improve on that this year!

Whilst extremely positive overall, as an outcome of last year's survey, actions were taken to **improve communication; provide parents with a clearer view of expectations for children** at different ages; and take steps to **improve consistency around homework** across school. Although not directly linked to the survey, following feedback on the quality of **school photographs**, a contact through one of our governors has resulted in photographs which we hope you love and can cherish as a reminder of your child growing up 'through' Ravenfield Primary Academy. Analysis of the survey outcomes will again be shared with you when these are available.

With best wishes from
Members of the Local Governance Committee

MEMBERS OF YOUR LOCAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Local Governance Committees in all Maltby Learning Trust Primary Academies are made up of 9 members as follows:

Elected Parent governors		Appointed Community/ Business governors	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Brighton • Lynsey Hobson (Vice Chair) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Buxton (Chair) • Steve Davis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Peach • <i>(Awaiting nominee)</i> 	
Elected Staff governors		Academy Principal	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Parker – teaching staff governor • Joanne McGregor – associate staff governor 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caroline Coates is automatically a member of the LGC 	

Ravenfield Primary Academy

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