



# **Ravenfield Primary Academy**

## **LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

### **COMMITTEE**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **For Parents and Carers**

**December 2019**

Dear Parents and Carers

## PARENT/CARER SURVEY

Thank you to all those parents/carers who completed our survey around half-term. We had 116 responses out of a possible 187 – slightly less than in Autumn 2018, but still a great response. Detailed analysis of the outcomes will again be shared with you on our website, but here are some ‘headlines’. Out of the 116 parent/carer responses:

- 108 would recommend this school to other parents; only 8 parents were unsure but may be new parents joining Ravenfield more recently?
- 109 feel positive about the way the school is led and managed. This has continued to provide a very encouraging picture reflecting the progress made at Ravenfield since Mrs Hepworth’s appointment in Sept 2018 and now being sustained under the leadership of our new permanent Principal, Mrs Coates
- All 116 parents/carers felt their child was well looked after
- 115 felt their child was happy and safe at school
- Not a single parent opted for ‘strongly disagree’ to any question this time
- As is often the case, there were mixed feelings about homework, and Mrs Coates is going to look at this again to make sure this is consistent and matched well to the children’s learning needs
- 7 parents disagreed or didn’t know if the information about their child’s progress was valuable and a similar number were yet to make up their mind about the way children were being taught. This was another positive response overall, but governors will continue to focus our questioning of leaders on steps being taken to further improve teaching and learning until pupil outcomes better reflect higher national expectations for our children
- 43 parents/carers said that they didn’t know about the steps taken at Ravenfield to deal with bullying and cyber bullying. Some did say this was because they hadn’t encountered any difficulties which is very pleasing. We are sure that parents with us last year will remember the school being awarded the *Rotherham Anti-Bullying Award*, which governors are confident is an indication of some very effective practice in place. However, we have still asked staff to look at better communicating this information to you as if so many parents don’t know, then the message about the steps being taken is not getting to all parents/carers well enough.

Governors take your views very seriously - please look on the website for more details about your responses and steps we are taking as a result of the survey.

## WHAT ELSE HAVE WE BEEN DISCUSSING?

Discussions in recent meetings continue to focus on a wide range of issues to enable us to fulfil the 3 core functions of governance i.e.

- **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 effective and efficient performance management of staff, and;**
- **Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.**

Reports from leaders have included *developments to strengthen the curriculum; progress and impact of improvement priorities; pupil performance outcomes including, in one meeting, a focus on anonymised outcomes for children with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities*. We have also been discussing:

### **The IDSR report (Inspection Data Summary Report)**

This was recently received from Ofsted and enables governors to consider judgements as to how well Ravenfield compares with other schools nationally in terms of pupil outcomes. It is also designed to inform us where the school 'sits' against key indicators including relative advantage/disadvantage, stability, staff absence, proportions of children for whom English is an Additional Language, and spending against income. There is no escaping the fact that Ravenfield is fortunate not to encounter many of the barriers to learning experienced in other less advantaged communities. The report shows that although many of our children reach very high standards, overall, more still needs to be done to raise standards still further. Mrs Coates is working really hard with staff on approaches to teaching and learning to ensure your children are appropriately challenged and 'stretched' to achieve the best they are capable of.

### **Issues around the budget**

Our budget is generated primarily by pupil numbers and we already know that the unusually small intake this term is going to hit us hard next year with an estimated reduction of around £40,000. Governors are acutely aware that without the significant financial support from Maltby Learning Trust, current expenditure at Ravenfield could not be sustained indefinitely. We were delighted therefore to learn that in addition to continuing to support current staff costs, MLT are able to fund the long-overdue work to sort out the long-standing problem with 'moles' on the school field! Some governors have attended training to look at ways to maximise our budget, but will also welcome

help if any of you have ideas about generating income or have experience in successfully writing bids. Please do let Mrs Coates know if you have ideas.

### Pupil Premium – can you help us?

Schools receive a Pupil Premium to support the work of the school, for children from families who are eligible to certain benefits. However, since no parents currently need to pay for lunch in KS1, many schools are losing valuable income amounting to £1320 per child! This is not just a Ravenfield issue - there is, sadly, much confusion across the country. The Trust have prepared a leaflet about this, which we hope you will find helpful. If any parents who have even the slightest chance of qualifying, do please apply for Free School Meals. This way we won't lose out on essential monies needed to pay for learning resources, maintain/refurbish the building and much more – all essential to providing the best for all our children. Thank you.

We hope you have enjoyed being a part of the school's festivities at this very busy time of year. It was wonderful to see so many of our families gathered to celebrate the switching on of the lights in the village, a suggestion that came from one of our own children. As we now rapidly approach the Christmas break, governors would like to thank you for your continued support for Ravenfield Primary Academy and send you all our best wishes for the festive season.

*With best wishes from*

*Members of the Local Governance Committee*

<b>MEMBERS OF YOUR LOCAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>		
Local Governance Committees in all MLT Primary Academies are now made up of 9 members. Community and Business/Education governors, the Chair and Vice-Chair are all appointed by the Trust in consultation with the LGC.		
<b>Elected Parent governors</b>	<b>Community governors</b>	<b>Business/Education governors</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scott Brighton</li> <li>• Lynsey Hobson (Vice Chair)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emma Peach</li> <li>• Steve Davis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz Buxton (Chair)</li> <li>• <i>(Awaiting MLT nominee)</i></li> </ul>
<b>Elected Staff governors</b>		<b>Academy Principal</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy Parker – teaching staff governor</li> <li>• Joanne McGregor – associate staff governor</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caroline Coates is automatically a member of the LGC</li> </ul>

**Ravenfield Primary Academy, Moor Lane North, Ravenfield, Rotherham S65 4LZ**

**Telephone: 01709 542678 [www.ravenfieldprimaryacademy.com](http://www.ravenfieldprimaryacademy.com)**

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