



Ravenfield Primary Academy
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY
NEWSLETTER
For Parents and Carers

February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

In this newsletter, we thought you might like to hear about some of the aspects of school life that the local governing body (LGB) has been discussing in recent meetings.

Most of our LGB agenda items are identified by the Trust in order to ensure consistency in governance across the Maltby Learning Trust schools. Others arise out of issues a particular school faces, for example following surveys of parent and carers views. Governors also regularly discuss their own visits to school and developments in governance. The Associate Principal reports regularly to the LGB to update us on progress with Academy Improvement Priorities. From time to time other staff members are invited to attend LGB meetings to talk about their work and answer governor's questions. As governors, our main focus is always on the *impact* any developments have on the provision the school makes and the progress children make in their learning. Recently we have been talking, amongst many other things, about provision for **special educational needs and disabilities**, the place of **homework, e-safety** and our **pupil premium strategy**.

Firstly **homework** - Governors have been pleased to hear how many parents continue to support their own child's learning at home. You will probably have noticed changes in the style of some homework as staff focus more on *pre-learning* activities and ways you can help the children to come to school prepared to learn. Staff have reported some real enthusiasm for learning with these pre-learning activities having a really positive impact – thank you. This is early days, and more work will be undertaken to help you to know more about the targets your children have, the teaching approaches being used, the external tests the children are required to sit and what is expected at each age and stage of children's learning journey through the school. Some of the above are a direct result of the feedback we received from parents and carers, but all these developments are intended to help staff to work in partnership with you as parents and carers of children attending Ravenfield.

Some children have additional needs which the school must recognise and support to enable learners to make the best possible progress. It was with this in mind that governors focussed on **special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)** at our last meeting and invited the teacher, who has

leadership responsibilities for SEND to join our meeting. Mrs Wildin shared with us valuable information to help the LGB to have a greater understanding of how the school responds to the needs of children with additional needs. This included the nature of the support and intervention programmes tailored to each child's individual special needs and the way the school works in partnership with external agencies. Throughout the discussion, governors were acutely aware of the pressures and challenges that the school faces and the sometimes difficult decisions it has to make to ensure the best possible use is made of available funding. The school rightly involves external agencies to provide more specialist guidance and support, but until this can be accessed, governors were very impressed with the level of individualised support that the school puts in place as soon as a need is identified.

Our **Pupil Premium strategy** has been reviewed and a new approach put in place to plan how the funding to support the most disadvantaged of our pupils will be used to narrow any attainment gaps. Our plan can be found on the website if anyone would like to look at this in more detail. You can help us to ensure the school receives all the funding to which it is entitled by checking if you are eligible to apply for free school meals. This still applies *even* if your child is in KS1 and already receiving free school meals under the governments 'universal free school meals' initiative.

Our last survey revealed that quite a number of parents did not feel sufficiently aware of how the school was tackling cyber-bullying, so governors were pleased to hear that 61 parents were able to attend the Stay and Learn session and hear the input on **e-safety** which as you will be aware, is of national concern. Sadly, many schools encounter issues arising over pupils use of social media, although this shouldn't actually be a problem in *any* primary school where no child is old enough to have their own social media account.

We continue to value your feedback and hope that many parents used the opportunity provided by LGB '*Comments slips*' available at parents evening before half-term to contribute to a dialogue directly with your local governing body. Liz Buxton, our chair of governors, very much enjoyed meeting with many of you at the recent parents evening.

Lastly, the make-up of all governing bodies changes from time to time, sometimes because governor's own children move on to other schools and sometimes when governors reach the end of their term of office.

Jenny Jaques has been a long-standing governor at Ravenfield and, as mentioned in an earlier newsletter, chair of the local governing body for the last four years. Jenny has decided though, that when her term of office ends at the end of February, she will not be seeking re-appointment to the governing body. We are sure all parents will want to join with us in thanking Jenny most sincerely for her commitment to the school over many years. She has brought a wide range of skills and experience to her role in this school and to the work of the Maltby Learning Trust and been a valued support to other governors too. Jenny has been a terrific advocate for the school and taken a very close interest in how it has developed over her years of involvement. Being a governor is an entirely voluntary role and Jenny has barely missed an event or meeting over her time as a governor, illustrating her commitment to this important work. A huge 'thank you' to Jenny with our very best wishes for the future.

With best wishes from
Members of the Local Governing Body

| MEMBERS OF YOUR LOCAL GOVERNING BODY | | |
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| Local Governing Bodies in all Maltby Learning Trust Primary Academies are made up of 12 members as follows: | | |
| 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 • Jenny Jaques | <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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