



# Annual Governors Report

## For the academic year

### 2018-19



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## Chair's Introduction

Welcome to another Annual Report of the Governing Body of Oaklands Junior School.

I am privileged to have this opportunity to write to you after my first year as Chair of Governors, in what has been another busy and productive year. You can read in the Chairs of Committees reports below about some of the areas on which we have been focussing this year, but one of the highlights is that unlike many schools, we are in a healthy financial situation, thanks to robust financial management and the fact that our pupil numbers continue to be good. I hope that you are aware of some of the improvements in the fabric of the school, and we aim to continue with this next year, with a number of projects being completed over the summer holidays.



We have always tried at Oaklands Juniors to provide a curriculum which is varied and meets the needs of all our pupils, as seen in our curriculum mission – “to provide a challenging and creative curriculum through cross-curricula learning, inspiring children to gain a lifelong love of learning.” Our Thinking Schools accreditation is testament to this aim, and we are delighted that from September, Ofsted’s focus is going to be on the curriculum and the overall quality of education provided.

We are now in our second year of being part of the Corvus Learning Trust and we are constantly building on this relationship to improve the education of all our pupils. The Trust provides a great deal of support and advice behind the scenes, as well as in the more obvious areas such as school improvement, and it was as a result of our academy status that we could apply for and receive the grant for the new roof. Regular meetings are held with Headteachers, Chairs of Governors and Business Managers in order to support and share good practice, and after a successful meeting in June of all members of the Trust attended by over 60 of us, the aim is to repeat this in the coming year to build on these relationships.

This report outlines our successes and achievements and I hope that you will take time to read the report. We continue to build on our strong community links and help develop our children to becoming good citizens, but of course none of this could be achieved without the commitment and hard work of our staff. We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated team, including school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants and support staff, and I look forward to the school and the Governors continuing to work together in the coming year.

Liz James

Chair of Governors

## School Vision

We aim to be the local school of choice through our unique Thinking Schools philosophy that equips children with important skills for life.



## Learning to Think – Thinking to Learn

Developing Enquiring Minds and Creative Thinkers

At Oaklands Junior School, we value our Oaklands' Mindset that permeates everything we do. Our whole school community will:

- **Challenge** self and others to reach their full potential
- Foster determination and resilience in working towards our **Ambition**
- Encourage greater confidence to achieve **Independence**
- Value **Friendship** that shows respect and compassion
- Promote happiness and motivation to succeed through **Enjoyment**
- Develop **Communication** through collaboration and co-operation



## How do school leaders and governors promote school improvement?

At Oaklands Junior School leaders have children's safety, welfare and learning at the forefront of all decision-making. Each member of staff and each governor is a leader of at least one aspect of the school's life, working as a strong team to improve and raise standards. Pupil voice, through the School Council and parent consultation through meetings and surveys, mean that the whole school community is part of the consultation and decision making process.

The Headteacher and her Senior Leadership Team work with all aspects of the school community to identify priorities, plan and action developments for these and to closely monitor impact and outcomes.

The Governing Body monitors school improvement priorities through regular visits to the school for meetings, taking part in lessons and learning walks. It also spends time on scrutiny of documentation and ensures that the Headteacher and staff are regularly and rigorously appraised. In all, the 'Team' ethos at Oaklands Junior School is key to the successful learning of all our children.

## Our Governing Body

The Governing Body and the Headteacher share responsibility for the strategic direction of the school, acting within the framework set by national legislation and by policies of the Corvus Learning Trust. While the Trust is the employer of staff, the Governing Body and Headteacher have separate and particular responsibilities for the selection and management of staff.

The internal management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher. The full Governing Body meets at least twice a term. In addition, there are four committees that conduct the main business of the governing body, each one reporting back to the full governing body. Most of the business of the governing body is conducted by these committees. The Governing Body for our school for the current year has been as shown.

Name	Type of Governor	Term of Office
Esther Blake	Co-opted	Mar-22
Roger Blake	Co-opted	Oct-21
Kevin Davis	Co-opted	Jan 22
Debby Griffiths	Co-opted	Jan 23
Nada Harding	Parent	Nov 22
Duncan Holland	Staff	Oct 20
Liz James	Co-opted	Jan 23
Susanne Kaps	Co-opted	Jan 22
Charlotte Kieran	Co-opted	Nov 20
Barbara Paige	Co-opted	Jan 23
Carolyn Pyke	Co-opted	Jan 23
Justine Waight	Co-opted	June 21
Hazel West	Headteacher	
David Whitfield	Co-opted	Sept 20
Robert Wyld	Parent	Nov 22

## Governors' links with specific areas of the curriculum

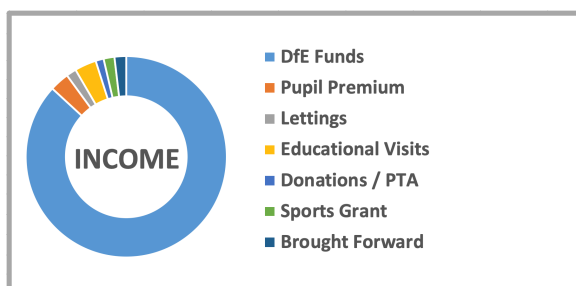
These governors visit the school regularly to work alongside teachers in their chosen subject area. The aim is to obtain a clear idea of how the subject is delivered and discuss any areas where the Governing Body could assist. It also greatly enhances our overall knowledge of the school, as Governors report back on their visits to the full Board.

Subject	Governor
Mathematics	Roger Blake
English	Carolyn Pyke
Computing	Susanne Kaps
Thinking Schools	Barbara Paige
SEND & EAL	Justine Waight
Safeguarding	Esther Blake
Pupil Premium	Justine Waight
Health & Safety	David Whitfield
Development	Debby Griffiths
Prevent	Esther Blake
Children In Care	Justine Waight
Science	Robert Wyld
Art	Charlotte Kieran
DT	
French	Carolyn Pyke
Geography	Barbara Paige
Global Learning	Susanne Kaps
History	Barbara Paige
Most Able & Talented	Charlotte Kieran
Music	Barbara Paige
P4C	Barbara Paige
RE & PE	Nada Harding

## Finance and Premises Committee Report

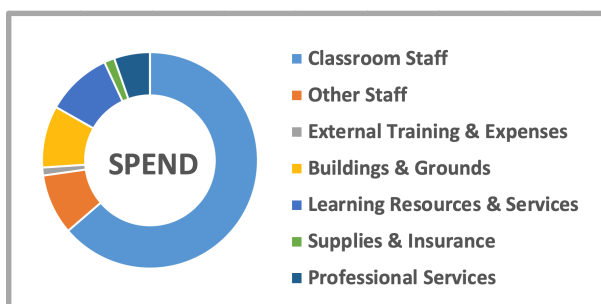
An effective learning environment makes a key contribution to helping to inspire, motivate and challenge our children. The headteacher, staff and teaching assistants create this environment but they cannot do it alone. They need the support of high quality facilities and sufficient funding to bring out the best in our children. The role of the Finance and Premises Committee is essentially to ensure that we have strong financial management and that we make the best possible uses of our financial and premises resources for the benefit of our children.

Concern over school funding is still very much in the media at present but Oaklands Junior School is currently in a good position. This has not happened by chance; we are a good school that attracts



families, with a capable and highly motivated staff. We also have carefully-managed facilities that support the children’s learning and a variety of interesting extra-curricular activities. Now with academy status, as part of the Corvus Learning Trust, we have maintained our healthy budget position and have greater control over how we spend our money.

We have an annual income of around £1.1m. With a staff of 28, and in common with all schools, around three-quarters of our income is spent on staff costs. The remainder is largely spent on learning resources and on running and maintaining our buildings and grounds. Every year we also plan to run a number of projects to ensure the continual improvement of our school.



With the help of Corvus, the school applied for and has been granted money from the government’s Condition Improvement Fund to renew the school’s flat roof. This ageing roof has been patched over the years but still leaks badly. You will notice that the scaffolding is already in place and the bulk of the work should be completed over the summer holidays. Other projects this year have included the Big Red Bus (thanks to Mr. Lee, his team and their sponsors), upgrades to the Audio/Visual facilities and a rolling decorating programme. The Daily Mile Track will be installed over the summer, with our thanks to the PTA for providing substantial funding for this and for the iPads/robots for the computing curriculum.

The school ends the year in a good financial position, having delivered a number of significant projects, and the outlook is good for the year ahead. This is all a tribute to the strong teamwork between the staff, governors, parents and children. Our challenge for the year ahead is to maintain and strengthen our position and, once again, we trust that parents will be able to assist us in achieving this.

**Roger Blake**, Chair of Finance and Premises Committee

## Staffing Committee Report

Excellent teaching is what inspires, motivates and challenges our children during their time with us at Oaklands Junior School. The Headteacher and staff are responsible for creating the best possible learning environment, but in this they are supported by the Governing Body and, in particular, the Staffing Committee. The Staffing Committee is responsible for overseeing the appointment of both teaching and non-teaching staff, adopting and reviewing employment related policies including the Pay Policy, monitoring the professional development of staff and ensuring that the Staff Appraisal policy is implemented. The Committee is also responsible for the Headteacher's annual appraisal.

At the start of this year, we welcomed Miss McComish in Year 4, and Mr Harris who joined us as a Teaching Assistant just for this year. Mrs Jones returned from maternity leave at Easter, and we said goodbye to Mr Hill; we are pleased to say that we will still see him from time to time as a supply teacher. We also said goodbye to Mr Grimmett in November, but we were delighted that Mrs McLaren was able to postpone her travels and take his place in Year 4.

Sadly, Mrs Simpkins, who had been with us for a number of years, moved house in February and had to leave, with our thanks for everything she has done for the school, and our very best wishes for the future.

We have been joined by Mrs Phillips as a part-time Learning Support Assistant in Year 6, Mrs Glover as an Admin and Finance Assistant, and Mrs Luther as a Lunchtime Supervisor, and we welcome them all.

The school supports the training of student teachers and Miss Hanks is currently completing her teaching practice in Year 5.

We continue to work closely with the other schools in the Corvus Learning Trust and with its central team, and are seeing real benefits from sharing advice and support from our colleagues in other schools.

We are so lucky at Oaklands Junior School to have a fantastic team of dedicated, talented and committed teaching and support staff throughout the school who work hard to create a positive learning environment in which the children are encouraged to achieve the best they can. We are committed to maintaining the quality of teaching and support in the school despite the increasing financial constraints.

The Staffing Committee will continue to do whatever it can to support the Headteacher and staff so that they can continue to deliver an excellent learning experience for the children and consistently high pupil attainment.

**Carolyn Pyke**, Chair of Staffing Committee

## Curriculum Committee Report

The Curriculum Committee is responsible for ensuring that the school delivers a broad and balanced curriculum in line with Government guidelines as well as monitoring assessment arrangements and evaluating results. In order to fulfil these obligations, we meet 4 times a year and report back to the Local Governing Body on all curriculum-related issues, including the progress of those with special educational needs, those receiving pupil premium and the most able and talented.



However, Oaklands Junior School believes that a child's education should be more than academic success, and this can be evidenced in the wide range of extra-curricular activities that are offered as well as our belief that the ethos of being a Thinking School helps the children become confident and enquiring learners. Indeed, the Thinking Days that have been held this year have seen the children mixing brilliantly with children in all year groups, thereby enhancing their social skills and learning from each other. We are delighted that the work that has been put in by

the staff, all of whom are fully committed to this programme, has led to our formal accreditation this year.

Last year saw the formation of the Corvus Learning Trust, which has started to bring benefits to the school in terms of closer liaison with our partner schools within the Trust. The Trust has appointed a Primary School Improvement Team, headed up by Amy Chapman, which has been working with the schools identifying areas of best practice across the Trust and helping our school to make improvements.

Over the past year, the school has continued to focus on improving Writing within the school and we are very hopeful that this year's moderated writing for year 6 will show a further year-on-year improvement in this area.

Recent announcements regarding changes to the Ofsted Framework and an increasing focus on a school's 3I's in relation to Curriculum – Intent, Implementation and Impact are where we are focussing as a committee for the next academic year. We are fortunate that, as a school, our curriculum is interesting and varied and the children benefit greatly from the opportunities that our curriculum offers, however we will need to ensure that Ofsted would take the same view if they were to come and visit!

Governors do make a point of seeing the school in action, rather than just relying on reports and results, and we do spend time going into lessons and talking with staff and children about what they are doing. We look forward to continuing to work with Mrs West and the staff to ensure that the children at Oaklands Junior School receive a challenging and exciting curriculum, which will prepare them both for the next stage of their education and for life in general.



**Justine Waight**, Chair of Curriculum Committee



## School and Community Committee Report

The prime concern of the School and Community Committee is to ensure the safety and well-being of each and every child in our school, whilst offering them equal opportunity, according to their individual needs, to fulfil their potential and achieve success. The Oaklands Mindset embodies the principles and attitudes that are fundamental to everything we do, respecting the rights of each individual and recognising the sense of responsibility and respect that we should have for the needs and feelings of others. Policies regarding Safeguarding, Equality, Behaviour, Anti-bullying, and Accessibility, which can be viewed on the school website, are regularly reviewed and provide a framework to maintain standards within the school community.

A strong working relationship between the school and the parents is vital to supporting the welfare and learning of the pupils. We endeavour to keep parents informed and up-to-date through our website and newsletters, as well as being available to speak with them at Parents Evenings and Information Evenings. We also seek the views and opinions of the parents by conducting an annual Parent Questionnaire, which provides valuable information to help us to evaluate our performance and guide our planning for the future. We were particularly pleased with the high response rate this year, as 138 questionnaires were completed online. A letter of feedback will be sent out shortly.



We also like to hear what the pupils themselves think of their experiences in school and what changes they might like to see. Representatives from each class make up the School Council, which meets regularly throughout the year to discuss any issues. We also conduct a Year 6 Leavers Questionnaire and this year we intend to give all pupils, in Year 3, 4 and 5, the opportunity to complete a short survey.

We are always eager to add to the facilities that we can provide for the children, such as the Outdoor Gym and the Big Red Bus, but such projects rely on fundraising or receiving sponsorship or services from local businesses. Any suggestions or connections from parents would be most welcome.

Oaklands Junior School has an increasingly strong relationship with both the Infants School and Edgbarrow, facilitating visits for pupils about to progress to their next school and opening up and sharing events, such as Sports Day and school plays. These schools, together with Hatch Ride School, make up the Corvus Learning Trust, which, in the words of its Mission Statement, 'is a community of schools, which have shared values and vision for education. We work together in collaboration, whilst retaining our individuality, to give every young person the opportunity to fulfil their potential.'

Outside of the classroom, Oaklands Junior School participates in many inter-school and local events, matches and festivals, showcasing a wide range of abilities and talents in sport, mathematics, music and the arts. The local magazine 'Crowthorne Eye' regularly features articles about the school.



**Barbara Paige**, Chair of School and Community Committee