

**Preshute Primary School**  
**Annual Governors Statement – July 2015**

Whilst preparing this annual report to the parents from the Governors, I re-read previous years' correspondence to try and avoid repeating myself too much. What I found is that, like so many recent years, the theme of the 2014-15 school year can be summarised as one of constant change and progress. The introduction of the new National Curriculum and assessment procedures, the improvement of mathematics teaching and learning, and the re-constituting of the governing body to align with current guidance are just some of the challenges which have been addressed. However I am delighted that this year has seen the school, not just provide education of the highest quality, but strive to further improve areas identified in the School Development Plan.

In this report I would like to highlight 3 specific areas of significant achievement to you. Firstly, the Teaching and Learning Committee have taken an active role, working closely with Kelandie Ash in the improvement of maths learning. This has focused, albeit not exclusively, upon progress in Key Stage One and girls progress in Key Stage Two and we are very pleased to see how effectively our work has impacted on outcomes which are now very good indeed. Furthermore the introduction of the 99 Club (Tables) has seen an immediate effect across all years and we are grateful to parents for their support. The second area of real achievement has been in PE. The Governing Body has been delighted with the impact of the Sports Grant which has enabled external agencies to expand the range of activities available for the children. This provision has been linked with exciting initiatives of the Head Teacher; and for the results, the Sports Week, which was universally popular, and the spectacular success at the Quad Kids and swimming cluster festivals, are testament to their added-value. Finally the school has been indebted to Rev. Miri Keen who, along with the Foundation Governors, has so commendably raised the profile of pastoral and religious issues through, for example the 'Journey Days' project. I know that the children have found these both stimulating and enjoyable.

The outline plan for the school re-build has generated its own highs and lows but it is important to acknowledge that the Governors, the Head Teacher and the Local Authority all remain totally committed to this fundamental long-term objective. However, several options for the new site are still being discussed; as are solutions to the abundant number of problems that have emerged throughout this lengthy process. Although I remain fully optimistic of a successful conclusion of this project, we must accept that difficulties will present themselves and for that reason it is impossible to provide clear timeframes at this time. However you will all be kept in informed as things develop.

Similar frustrations have been strikingly overcome by the Head Teacher and her staff who have had to cope with the unique task of managing changes in the National Curriculum, the procedures whereby the children are assessed and the way reports are generated for parents. This has put an increased burden upon all staff and the whole Governing Body has been impressed by the smooth and seamless way these changes have been/are being implemented. The Board has been fully involved in this work and continues to monitor developments, and next term will evaluate the introduction and full implementation of these new procedures.

Further financial and organisational challenges the Head Teacher has had to address are those associated with the provision of supply teachers. This burden has been lessened by a team of fantastic Teaching Assistants (TAs). A coherent and advanced weekly training programme run by Kelandie Ash has now generated a situation where TAs can now stand-in for teachers for short planned absences, ensuring continuity of learning and a comforting consistency for the children. This has generated financial savings for the school as it has decreased its reliance on expensive Local Authority supply teachers. Moreover, the expanded capabilities and increased quality of our TAs has allowed the Head Teacher to plan innovatively by empowering them to run specific interventions and emotional support groups. This idea will be developed further in the forthcoming school year.

It remains for me only to thank the Head Teacher and her staff for the hard work and dedication they have shown in making the school, not only a centre of excellence for learning, but also a calm and happy place for the children. Next year's agenda will be as equally challenging as this year there will may be an OFSTED inspection. But we are well-placed to achieve an excellent result that reflects the staff's hard work. Meanwhile may I wish you all a pleasant, relaxing and well-deserved summer break.

## **The Governing Body**

It is currently my privilege to serve as Chair of the Governing Body. We are fortunate indeed to have such a committed and willing group of people to help to ensure that our School maintains its central role in our community. Several of the Governing Body, including myself, has a range of experience within the educational world, as teachers, Governors and in a wider role too. Others professions are represented, ensuring a broad view of the issues in modern-day schools. The Governing Body's role is to ensure that the School has a clear vision for the future, underpinned by rigorous policies. The School Staff, led by the Head Teacher, are the managers who implement these policies. Our role, as Governors, is first to ensure that suitable policies are set, and then to monitor their implementation. This monitoring is simply to satisfy ourselves that agreed procedures are indeed being followed: it is not a judgemental process. That role - to ensure high quality in all that the School aims for and does - is the realm of OfSTED inspectors and we look forward to our next inspection with eager anticipation.

The Governors are:

Zoe Garbutt - Chairperson

Lorraine Perry - Vice Chair, Parent Governor

Paul Collins - Parent Governor

Lucy Brenk - Parent Governor

Julia Dowdeswell - Co-opted Governor

Nicola Child - Co-opted Governor

Lindsay Long - Co-opted Governor

Celia Hicks - Staff Governor

Kelandie Ash - Staff Governor

Rev. Miri Keen - Foundation Governor

Mike Maclachlan - Foundation Governor

Liz Bonham - Foundation Governor

Joyce White - Authority Governor (appointed by the Local Education Authority)

Clerk to Governors: Laurien Carter

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