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| **Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of**  **Middle Park Primary School 2017-18** | |
| The Governing Body of Middle Park Primary School has a strong focus on the three core strategic functions:   1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; 2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff; 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent. | |
| **Governance Arrangements** | The full governing body meets once each term. There are two committees that meet on a termly basis – Learning and Achievement and Business Committees. The governing body also has a Pay and Pay Appeals Committee which meet annually. Full governing body meetings and all committee meetings are professionally clerked and agendas and approved minutes are kept in the school office. Each committee has terms of reference.  Governors are also linked to areas or aspects of the school. Governors who visit the school provide a written report which is shared with the governing body. The Governing Body also agrees a termly Focus Visit on a topic that links with a priority in the School Improvement Plan. These Focus Visits are attended by approximately six governors each time. Dates for all Focus Visits are set at the summer term full GB meeting.  A list of governing body members is available on the school website together with their individual responsibilities. Governors have a wide spread of knowledge and expertise and are part of the committees which utilise their skills.  Attendance at meetings is very good and an attendance grid is available on the school website (governor pages). |
| **Key issues addressed by the governing body 2017-18** | The governing body has fulfilled its statutory duties in terms of monitoring all areas of the school’s work and offering support and challenge through the agreed agendas of each committee and the agendas of full governing body meetings. Some of the areas covered this year:   * Rigorous School Improvement Plan – input from a variety of stakeholders and a monitoring cycle to ensure there is positive impact against priority areas * Monitoring the use of Pupil Premium funding (statement available on the school website) * Monitoring the use of the Sports Premium funding (statement available on the school website) * Review of statutory policies and ensuring there is compliance of the school website * Monitoring of pupil progress across the school and ensuring there is a broad offer of curriculum to all students * Use of LEGO Innovations Studio and introduction to the wider community * Rigorous budget management and assurances of ‘best value’ * Appointment of a new School Business Manager in 2017 and the successful transition of work by the new SBM who has also been extremely successful in applying for bids. * New FS building – building work completed and the building in full use since September 2018. The building offers a unique environment for our young children that is both safe and inspiring. * Conversion of old nursery accommodation into a Nurture Unit that caters for a number of children with different needs throughout the day. Governors hope that this will address some of the problems encountered by the school with the absence of necessary special needs provision throughout the Borough, * Governor focus mornings planned around one of the priorities in the School Development Plan. * Individual governor involvement in interviews for the Inclusion Mark and the Basic Skills Award – both successful accreditations in 2018. School was also successful in gaining the Science Silver Award. |
| **Assessment of Impact** | Governors provide a high level of challenge to the Head Teacher and the school. They consider a range of documents and data provided by the school in order to judge the impact of strategies within the school.  Governors also visit the school to meet with staff to gain a greater understanding of the school and the on-going requirement to raise standards. The school’s Improvement Partner provides notes of visit which are considered at governing body meetings.  Governors monitor finance stringently to ensure the school’s budget is spent to achieve the best possible outcomes for students. |
| **Future plans for the governing body** | The governing body will continue its work in line with the government agenda.  The governing body will be working towards accreditation for Governor Mark (a national quality mark for governance).  The governing body is keen to further partnership with other schools to enhance working practices and provide Continuing Professional Development for all practitioners. |
| **Contact Details** | The governing body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the School. |