

Dosthill Primary Academy Governor Impact Statement 2017-18

The Local Governing Body (LGB)

We became an LGB when we joined Fierte Multi Academy Trust (MAT) on 1.1.18.

There have been no changes to membership during 2017-18.

The LGB consists of 11 members including the HT.

We have changed from a committee structure to 6 LGB meetings per annum. The clerk attends and minutes all 6 meetings for consistency.

Link Governor responsibilities have been reassigned. The Link Governor meets with the SLT/subject leader at least termly

to see the school in action (ie. visit classrooms possibly), review planning, books, progress and future plans. The Link Governor produces a report which is shared with Governors and filed for the record. This allows Governors to monitor, review and challenge at both SLT and subject level.

In the autumn term we welcomed Maria Hamblin CEO Fierte MAT to our Governors ' Meeting.

Strategic Direction and School Development Plan

Setting the strategic direction of Dosthill Primary Academy has been a vital role of governors and this is supported by the SDP. The SDP is adapted to address the needs of Dosthill Primary Academy, focusing on priorities and continuing to be fluid as school priorities and focuses develop.

This year's priorities have been:

- 1.To improve the quality of teaching in order to raise achievement for all groups of pupils including teachers' planning, questioning and pace and pupil progress especially in key aspects of English and Maths.

- 2.To improve the effectiveness of Leadership and Management including governance.

The LGB monitors progress of the priorities through the Headteacher's Termly Report to Governors and Link Governor reports/visits. In addition members of the SLT are invited to LGB meetings. They are held to account through questioning by Governors. This allows Governors to view progress throughout the year, pinpoint areas of concern and importantly, provide positive challenge and support. In addition the Chair of Governors attends SLT meetings on occasions and liaises regularly with the HT/DHT to maintain an overview of the school, its progress and any issues that have arisen between meetings.

In the AutumnTerm a full report will be given by the HT on the outcomes of actions and objectives of the priorities of the SDP 2017-18.

Achievement of Pupils

Through our Link Governors, LGB meetings and HT reports alongside an ongoing review of quantitative data which includes the school's own performance data ,ASP (Analyse School Performance) and ISDR (Individual Data Summary Report) we know how the children are performing. We also know where they are expected to be and where there are issues or gaps that may need our input to address or support.

We look at the school's academic performance against annual targets and longer term trends and compare our performance against national data, locally, and schools within our MAT. We use this information to constructively challenge the Headteacher and other school leaders in order to ensure that any potential problems are addressed in a timely way and the successes celebrated.

Throughout the academic year we are aware of how each group is performing against our priorities, focuses, and targets. We are well aware that pupil performance targets are aspirational and therefore may not be achieved this year.

Raising Standards of Teaching

In terms of self- evaluation using Ofsted criteria, we are working towards a judgment of 'good'. At LGB meetings we review data showing evidence pertaining to the quality of teaching within the school. This includes feedback from classroom observations carried out by the HT/DHT, reports on the progress of specific groups of children (eg. Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium) and scrutiny of the children's books. Overall this allows us to track progress against our target that 80% of teaching is good or better.

Statutory Duties

We are very mindful of our statutory duties as a LGB. Over the course of the year we have paid particular attention to staff and pupil welfare, safeguarding (Level 1 training) and Data Protection (GDPR training). We are mindful of changes in our statutory duties and responsibilities emanating from joining Fierte MAT on 1.1.18 - in particular our Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation.

Governor Training

Following an External Review of our Governance we commissioned a bespoke practical training package, delivered by a consultant from the National Association of Governors. Notably In our LGB meetings we now pose more probing questions to the Headteacher/ Senior Leadership Team based on our observations of the school in action, the Headteacher's report and book trawls for example. Answers to questions are fully recorded in minutes of LGB meetings so they can be followed up

where necessary so we keep track. This training has been key to enabling our LGB to carry out its core function of accountability more effectively and cohesively.

We have agreed with staff a clear protocol for Governors making visits to the school and drawn up a proforma on which such visits are detailed and recorded. Link Governors share these reports at LGB meetings.

From this External Review of Governance there is further work needed on Governor self- review. It is hoped this can be developed in conjunction with other schools in the Fierte MAT in 2018-19.

Chairs of Governors of the four schools in Fierte MAT recently joined the CEO and Trust Board members at the MAT's solicitors to begin to steer the values and vision of Fierte over the next two years or so.

This has been a year of a new beginning for Dosthill Primary Academy. To enable us to play our role fully we know there is still much to learn through further training and events to enable us to keep up to date with our responsibilities with regard to the latest requirements and expectations as well as local and national best practice.