

The Kenn & Kenton Federation

Governor Newsletter

Autumn 2014

Welcome to the first governor newsletter of the 2014/15 academic year. The summer was exceptionally busy for Amanda Somerwill, Jo Slack, Joe Baxter and Jan Caig, preparing the new management structure for the Kenn & Kenton Federation. We hope you agree that as Mrs Somerwill, Miss Slack and Mr Baxter settle into their new roles, we are able to consolidate stability to both schools, whilst striving to ensure that all children are the best that they can be.

This is an appropriate point in the year to inform new parents, as well as remind existing parents, what the governing body is here to do. Recapping on the most recent school governance legislation that came into effect on 1st September 2013, the three core functions of the governing body are:

- To ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the schools is clearly defined:
- To ensure that the head teacher performs her responsibility for the education performance of the schools
- To ensure the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

To facilitate this, the governing body meet for full governor meetings (FGM) every half term. These meetings alternate between Kenn & Kenton schools. Your governing body adopt a committee structure to undertake their monitoring and evaluation roles. This consists of the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee (FPP) and the Teaching and Learning Committee (TL). Membership is determined by skills analysis to ensure broad representation on both committees whilst simultaneously optimising the experience and backgrounds in each cohort. These committees meet in addition to FGM and again they average six times a year. In addition to the formal meetings, all governors will participate in monitoring sessions within school. These sessions have a specific remit in line with those items identified within school improvement plan (SIP). To view the membership of the FFP and TL committees please use the following;

<http://www.kenn-primary.devon.sch.uk/governors/the-governors/>

<http://www.kenton-primary.devon.sch.uk/governors-2/the-governors/>

As mentioned above, visits have a clear focus, linked to a subject area or a specific item on the School Improvement Plan (SIP). So far this term we have completed a number of visits. Jane Lewis has met with Mrs Somerwill to aid with Premises Priority Reports for Kenn and Kenton. Jan Caig and Leigh Mansfield visited Kenn school to look at book marking and met with a range of children to see how they interpret and understand the way in which their school work is marked. Jan Caig and Carol Smith visited both schools this month, the focus area being behaviour and safety. Warren Knight and Leigh Mansfield joined in some of the activities at Heatree in September as a non-SIP visit. These visits were particularly memorable and lots of fun! On a serious note, it was much more than fun, the high levels of challenge and support being clear throughout. Warren, as chair of FFP and Health & Safety governor, gained a great insight into the high level of safety factors in place and the huge amount of organisation and structure needed to provide the children with such a wonderful experience. Our visits also provide an opportunity to talk with pupils, staff and parents to gather their views. However, we are not inspectors and it is not our role to assess the quality or method of teaching or extent of learning. The focus of visits for Spring and Summer terms will be agreed at the next FGM in December.

Some of us have attended courses this academic year too. Jane Lewis completed the Diocese of Exeter Governors Induction day, which gave details of differences between VA, VC foundation and academies along with insight into Christian Values, RE, Collective Worship, What to do in learning Walks, Ethos Groups and SIAMS inspections. We will keep you updated of others courses that we attend as the year progresses.

We would like to acknowledge the wonderful feedback that Kenn school received after the Remembrance Day Service at St Andrews Church, Kenn. The Collective Worship Team wrote and read out their prayers and the choir performance was commended. Well done to all who took part.

As we head in to the final few weeks of term, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and send our best wishes for 2015 and hope you join us in our enthusiasm to continue to develop a strong, secure Kenn & Kenton Federation.

