



Be nice, work hard, never give up

Greenleas Primary School  
Green Lane  
Wallasey  
Wirral  
CH45 8LZ

Tel No: 0151 639 1225 / Fax No: 0151 639 4349  
Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Edwards

E-mail: [schooloffice@greenleas.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@greenleas.wirral.sch.uk)

Website: [www.greenleasprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.greenleasprimaryschool.co.uk)

Twitter: [@greenleasps](https://twitter.com/greenleasps)

## Governing Body Report - April 2016

### Executive Summary

Dear Parents, Carers & Staff,

It can often seem as though school governors are hidden away and most people will be unsure of the work, time and on-going training involved to consummate such a role. Now we are reaching the mid-point in our academic year, The Governing Body at Greenleas Primary School would like to explain some of their responsibilities and to share some of our school achievements to date and hopes for the future. Ultimately, the work of Governing Body, the Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team and of all the School Staff have at its core the best interests of our children.

*Our Vision at Greenleas Primary School is for 'governors and Staff to work together to provide high quality care and education for all our children. We strive for high achievement in all that we do. We want our children to be confident, motivated, independent learners with a healthy self-image and respect for others.'*

### The role of school governors

School governors are drawn from different parts of the community and can be parents, Staff or from the community and other groups. This breadth of experience helps ensure the Governing body has the right skills to support and drive the success of school.

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. Each individual governor is a member of the Governing Body, which is established in law as a corporate body. Individual governors may not act independently of the rest of the Governing Body; decisions are the joint responsibility of the Governing Body. It is governors who hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, and it is governors who work with the Head Teacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources.

The role of the Governing Body is a strategic one; its key functions are to:

- Set the aims and objectives for the school
- Set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives



Metropolitan  
Borough of Wirral

- Set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- Monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- Be a source of challenge and support to the Head Teacher

Governors appoint the Head Teacher and deputy Head Teacher. The Head Teacher is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the Governing Body. The Head Teacher provides a termly report to governors and all information contained within this document has to be evidenced and approved. Part of our work within Governance is evaluating and monitoring the progress of our children and at Greenleas we do this rigorously. The Head Teacher and her Staff are asked to report termly on the progress of groups and individuals by the Governing Body. Discussion on strategies for improving progress is continuous and individual children are monitored, discussed, and if necessary, interventions applied. Please note, individual names are not mentioned to protect confidentiality.

We monitor and evaluate in various ways such as:

- Reviewing progress data
- Reviewing and monitoring school policies
- Budget monitoring and financial benchmarking
- Monitoring of safeguarding procedures
- Monitoring training and development of Staff
- Governor monitoring visits
- Subject leader and Head Teacher reports to a relevant committees
- Reports from learning walks
- Pupil feedback
- Stakeholder views

## **Finance**

Maintained schools receive their funding from the local authority (LA). The LA receives this funding within the Dedicated School Grant (DSG), which is allocated by the Department for Education (DfE) and based on historical data. LAs may spend some of this grant on central services but must pass most of it on to schools. Currently, our LA are supporting us entirely with the much needed internal refurbishment so we can enhance the learning environment for children and Staff. This has been a 2 year process due to restrictions to reach actual building work.



Maintained school Governing bodies and senior leaders must complete the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) annually. This helps schools manage their finances and secure value for money across all spending, and to give assurance that secure financial management arrangements are in place. All work relating to spending is transparent, agreed and supported by a dedicated Finance Committee and Bursar from the LA. Unfortunately, schools locally and nationally are witnessing desperate measures to help ease the burden of recent changes to funding formulas and costs. Staffing is our biggest resource and greatest asset...apart from the children of course! Thankfully at Greenleas and due to constant vigilance with spending we have not had to discuss redundancies of our Staff or slashed incentives for our children as many other schools are facing.

## **Challenges**

Notably during the last two years, education has seen many changes directed from The Department of Education; Assessment without Levels, 2014 Curriculum (from September 2015), the new Ofsted Framework (September 2015), renewed SATS tests (from May 2016), Reception Baseline Assessments, Academisation and more recently, The White Paper 'Educational Excellence Everywhere' (March 2016). As parents and Staff, these changes can seem confusing, unnecessary and consequently time consuming but these changes are out of our control. Naturally this could provide a challenge for us all but ultimately, we have a duty for our children to rise above this time of forced transition. And we are.

## **Strengths**

Recently, the school and teaching and learning has been part of a review overseen by senior leaders from other local schools. This is a positive initiative implemented and agreed by our cluster primary schools that all local schools will undertake together. The aim is for sharing good practice, benchmarking standards and preparing our Staffing teams for new challenges ahead. This work gives pupils and teachers an opportunity to show the work that occurs here at Greenleas.

Key initial feedback is superb and in summary celebrates that at Greenleas Primary School, we ensure and enable:

- Excellent relationships between adults and children
- Children make good progress from their starting points
- Strong teamwork from all Staff
- High ambition
- Excellent behaviours for learning



**Metropolitan  
Borough of Wirral**

- Strong and positive pupil voice
- Attainment outcomes are above national averages in all key areas
- An engaging and challenging curriculum
- Early Years outcomes are significantly above national average and rising
- All children/groups are above national averages and significantly above national comparisons
- KS1 phonics outcomes are significantly above national average and rising
- KS1 attainment is significantly above average and improving especially in writing
- KS2 attainment outcomes are above or significantly above national average
- Reading is strong in all groups at Level 4 & 5 (previous assessment measure)
- Level 5 attainment is good in all areas

Through their daily planning, teachers initiate and deliver a wide, stimulating and an interesting balanced curriculum; the children enjoy and are active and eager learners. As a Governing Body we want all the children, regardless of ability, to be successful. It has been the ambition of the Governing body to facilitate through challenge the improvement of each child's educational journey. We confidently believe that this is being achieved and the superb work of Staff must be acknowledged.

### **Governing Body Initiatives**

Since the start of this school year, Governors have been evaluating how we work collectively and have been implementing changes needed to meet new requirements of governance law, statutory directives, safeguarding, teaching and learning. Recent initiatives have included:

- Completion of refurbishment in Yr 3/4
- Working in partnership with other school Governing Bodies
- Introduction of specific subject Link Governor roles (e.g. Curriculum areas, safeguarding, Health & Safety, SEN)
- Governor Days (visits into school with specific aims)



- Meeting children in classroom setting
- Individual skills audits leading to training where needed
- Pre-Governor recruitment induction
- On-line Governor training facility
- All Governors to be DBS certified
- All Governors to pass Safeguarding training
- Current Governor legal and school specific information collated as a constant reference
- Governor attendance at school events both in and out of school

Along with these newer developments, our normal structure and focus is based around 3 Committees (Pastoral & Curriculum, Finance & Personnel) and a Full Governing Body meeting a term. Most business in our agenda is set nationally and dependent on where in the calendar we are however, we control additional items that we wish/need to include. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Governors meets the Head Teacher informally on an *ad hoc* basis to discuss any current issues, and to maintain a constant flow of information and support between the school Staff and the Governing Body.

### **On the horizon**

The pace and amount of change expected of Governors and everyone within education and LAs can seem at times relentless. A commitment to our roles and clear strategic direction for future work will steer us in a positive direction. In the immediate future and in addition to normal functions, we will be placing attention on:

- Academisation training
- Academisation research, planning & development
- Prevent Duty training
- Parent Governor elections
- Continuing budget scrutiny
- Further refurbishment approval



## **Last but no means least**

At Greenleas Primary School we champion a team approach that involves children, parents and Staff but also the wider community. We value everyone's help and participation in school life and their children's education. By working together in a positive, professional and enthusiastic manner, we all benefit especially the children.

As a Governing Body we would like to thank all parents and carers for continued support in encouraging your children's learning and for the numerous events that you are asked to participate in. We commend those that are able to volunteer their time and skills whether this is to read with children in school, go on trips, support after-school clubs plus many other collaborations. Parent support helps us provide a caring and varied learning experience and has a massive impact for our children.

Very generous contributions that are made through various Friends of Greenleas (FOG) fundraising events during the year are invaluable to us as a school. These donations have allowed us to purchase a number of valuable resources and to create first hand learning experiences for the children. To those who put the time and the tremendous efforts in making these opportunities happen, the Governing Body are truly grateful and your work does not go unnoticed. This too makes a real difference for our children.

Finally, It is undoubtedly the commitment of the Head teacher and the entire school Staff, both teaching and non-teaching, which makes Greenleas Primary such a special school. The Governing Body would like to formally applaud their hard work and wish much success for the remainder of this school year and into 2016/17.

Greenleas Governing Body

