



Kingham Primary School

Annual Report

2017-2018

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Introduction

This annual report from the governors of Kingham Primary School covers the academic year from September 2017 and looks forward to the year commencing September 2018.

The school governors continually assess not only the performance of the school but also the positive impact that the governing body makes. Good governance provides confident, strategic leadership to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance. The governors are also committed to transparent communication with all stakeholders, to which this brief annual report is a contribution.

Governors

The three core functions of the governing body are to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, to hold the Headteacher to account for educational performance, and to oversee the financial performance of the school.

The school governing body comprises nine governors, including the Headteacher, who have a key role and responsibility in ensuring the success of the school and that children have the opportunity to achieve their full potential at Kingham Primary School.

Dr W Cooper	Parent Governor (Chair)
Mrs S Harris	(Vice Chair)
Ms B Townend-Jowitt	Headteacher
Mrs C Hunt	Parent Governor
Miss E Jenkinson	Co-opted Governor
Mr C Lamming	Staff Governor (to July 2018)
Mr J Loomes	Co-opted Governor
Mrs L Phillips	Co-opted Governor
Rev D Salter	Co-opted Governor
Miss L-A Woskett	Staff Governor (from September 2018)

There are two Parent Governors to represent the interests of parents as stakeholders in the school.

The Staff Governor is elected by the staff to represent their interests. Miss Woskett was elected to replace Mr Lamming, who left the school at the end of the summer term to take up a new position at a school nearer his home.

The governors are also able to co-opt members of the community with particular professional expertise and appoint associate members with experience to offer.

John Loomes, a co-opted member with experience in banking as well as a governor, joined the governing body this year. He is taking a lead on finance.

We are also keen to involve those with a background in law, personnel or senior management experience.

The full governing body meets during each half term of the academic year. The School Business Manager, who serves as the clerk, minutes the meetings. The minutes are published on the school web site.

As volunteers, the governors give considerable time and experience to the school without compensation. It is a demanding but rewarding role that offers the opportunity to contribute to the community and develop additional skills. All governors receive training in the role and have the opportunity to attend training in specific aspects of their function.

Nursery class

The major strategic change for the school in the academic year has been preparing for the new Nursery class. This means that the school can now offer the option of places to children from the term after their third birthday, enabling a smooth transition into the Reception class for those children that subsequently receive places in the school.

This represents the culmination of a long period of consultation and negotiation to complete the transfer from the former Kingfishers Playgroup, which previously operated on the school site. The governors and staff have worked hard to achieve this, in close co-operation with the local authority and careful consultation with parents and the community. The process has taken some time to complete and we have endeavoured to ensure that it is as seamless as possible. We particularly appreciate the positive way in which the staff and trustees of the charity have approached the transition, which will secure the continuing provision of pre-school facilities on site.

The Nursery class is now part of an integrated Early Years Foundation Stage unit, under the management of the school and the governance of the governing body.

The Head of Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 will lead the Nursery class, working with the experienced existing staff that transferred across to the school.

Children with existing places are entitled to keep them while they continue to attend the nursery. Places for new admissions will be offered by application to the Headteacher of the school, in line with local authority admissions policy. A place in the nursery will not guarantee a place in the school and attendance at the nursery will not be necessary in order to receive a place in the school.

Staff changes

There have been a number of staff changes coming into effect from September 2018. Two class teachers have left for family reasons and four new teachers are joining the school, in addition to the staff transferring to the Nursery class. We also have two staff in the office, replacing Mrs Cherry, who has moved to a school closer to her home. We wish those that have left us all the best for their future and welcome those joining us.

The governors are closely involved with staff appointments and ensuring with the Headteacher that the school has an appropriate complement of staff. Together with a number of class moves, it means there is a lot of change but we are confident that this is positive for the school.

Identity

Over the year we have been preparing improvements to the way the school presents itself, starting with its identity. This branding review involves a lot more than the name and logo, both of which have been retained, although the logo has been redrawn and the colours have been refined. This will not affect any existing uniforms as the new identity maintains consistency with these but will ensure that representation on screen, in print and in signage is improved.

A revised prospectus will support the school identity, together with other documents that will be rolled out over time, of which this report is an example.

There will also be a new web site, intended to promote a clearer message to those outside the school as well as serving statutory requirements and communicating key information to the parent community.

We will continue to work on clarity and transparency of communication to ensure that we promote the good work of the school appropriately and engage with an open dialogue with current and prospective parents.

Parents

The governors are very grateful to parents for the support they offer the school in many ways. Whether working in the school grounds, maintaining the premises or helping out in the classroom, we are very appreciative of the assistance they provide, without which the school would not be able to offer such a great experience for children. We always welcome the involvement of parents in any ways in which they can contribute.

The Kingham Primary School Association is the parent teacher association and registered charity that manages fundraising activities for the school. The KPSA has raised thousands of pounds for the school, most recently for the outdoor classroom. Through its fundraising events for the school, the KPSA also provides social activities that bring together parents, children and the wider community. All parents and carers of children enrolled at Kingham Primary School are members of the KPSA and are entitled to vote and take part in elections for committee posts.

Finance

As with most schools, funding is under perennial pressure. Governors on the Finance Committee scrutinise all expenditure, as administered by the School Business Manager, and the full governing body approves the annual budget.

In the financial year from April 2017-2018, Kingham Primary School had a total income of £937,000, of which £836,000 was from public funding.

The school had six children eligible for Pupil Premium funding and received £11,000, the majority of which was spent on individual and small group tuition, enabling them to achieve their expected targets.

The PE Premium provided the school with just over £18,000 to make additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of the physical education and sport offering.

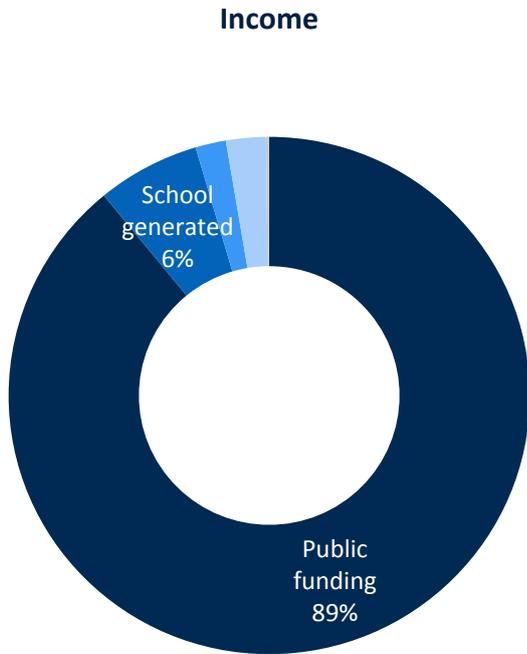
Further details of how the Pupil Premium and PE Premium funds were allocated are available on the school web site.

The school generated around 6% of its income from charging for after school clubs, lettings and other activities, but these generally only recover costs incurred. Charges for school meals also only just cover the cost.

Donations, mainly through extensive fundraising by the KPSA, make a meaningful contribution to school funds.

The school has a minimal capital budget and received just over £6,000 in total funding for refurbishment.

While some parts of the school building were added relatively recently, other areas require refurbishment. We have made some provision for this but the school does not have sufficient funds to undertake major works.

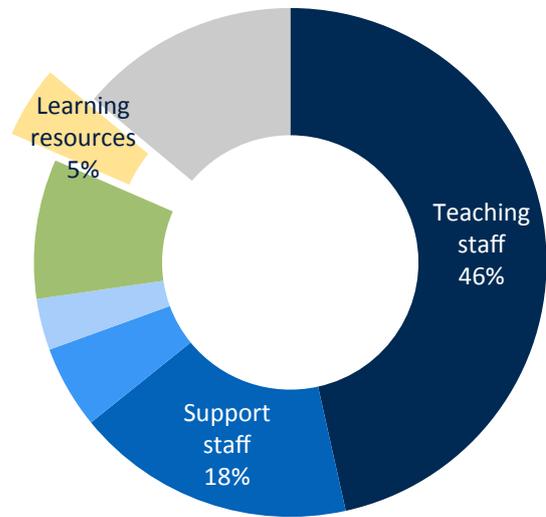


- Public funding
- School generated
- School meals
- Donations
- Other

Total expenditure over the year was £877,000. The main expenditure was staff costs, which accounted for £638,000, or 72% of spending. Employment costs continue to rise, and well-deserved pay increases for teachers are not necessarily matched by increased funding for the school.

In addition, the school has to pay for building and grounds maintenance and improvements, cleaning and caretaking, water and sewerage, energy, rates and refuse collection, which cost a total of £77,000.

Expenditure



- Teaching staff
- Support staff
- Admin staff
- Other staff costs
- Building and grounds
- Learning resources
- Other

Once other committed expenditure is taken into account that leaves just under £40,000 for learning resources, materials and supplies, which is around 4.5 pence in every pound spent by the school.

Any other spending that can be saved, or additional money that can be raised, can therefore contribute directly to the provision of learning resources and teaching materials for the benefit of children.

The approved budget for 2018-2019 currently forecasts an in-year shortfall of £28,000. This does not include provision for the new Nursery class. The school has carried forward modest reserves on which it can draw, but this is not sustainable in the longer term.

The Finance Committee and School Business Manager are committed to working within the constraints of existing funding, but current forecasts indicate that this will be increasingly difficult in the coming years.

The budget is very sensitive to the number of children on roll. While parents may appreciate smaller class sizes, the funding limitations are such that every vacant place represents a potential loss of funding of around £3,000 per year.

Kingham is a popular school and there were more applications to the Reception class for 2018 than there were places available. There were also applications for some available places in higher years. This recognises the reputation that the school has achieved and will serve to maintain funding. Marketing and personal recommendations will continue to be important to the success of the school.

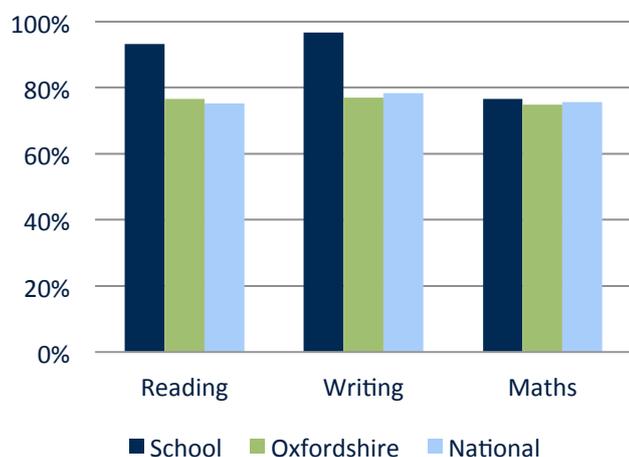
Performance

The governors and the Performance and Standards committee routinely monitor the implementation of the national curriculum and teaching and learning overall, not only by looking at statistics but also by spending time in the school and talking to children.

The performance of a primary school should not necessarily be judged on test results alone but our children once again demonstrated excellent outcomes in national Standardised Attainment Tests.

Results for reading, writing, and grammar, punctuation and spelling at the end of Key Stage 2 were significantly above the Oxfordshire and national average. The performance for maths was similar to the average for the county and the country.

Achieved standard for Key Stage 2



Bearing in mind that fewer than 30 children in the school take these tests, the performance of a single child can affect this measure by 3%. Maths will continue to be a key area of focus for improvement, with a performance measurement programme across the school demonstrating positive results.

The school has relatively few children with special educational needs but the governors continue to

monitor the specific provision that is made in these cases and the policies adopted to support this.

It is also important to recognise the extra-curricular accomplishments that children have made, from art and music to sport, and we appreciate the support of the staff and parent community in enabling these.

In addition to scheduled meetings with teachers, our open door sessions have proved popular with parents, providing an opportunity to see the work of children in the context of the classroom.

Our children are evidently proud of their school and their achievements and we are proud of them and their supportive parents and carers.

Feedback

If you have a particular suggestion or concern you should arrange to discuss the matter with the relevant member of staff as soon as possible.

The Headteacher welcomes opinions from parents and is generally available on the playground at the start and end of the school day, or otherwise by appointment through the school office.

You can also contact the governors through the school office. We also regularly attend school events and are always interested to hear your views about the school.

We pay particular attention to the responses to the annual survey of parents and carers. These were overwhelmingly positive last year. 98% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child enjoys coming to school, while 99% said they would recommend the school to another family. These are very pleasing figures.

We are also keen to learn where the school can continue to improve and we welcome all constructive feedback. In many cases changes have been made as a result. We therefore encourage parents to respond openly to the annual survey and look forward to reading the results.

Outlook

The governors are continuing to develop the vision and ambition for the school and to implement appropriate processes for good governance.

We appreciate the hard work that the Headteacher and the staff have put in to continuing to improve a school that is already considered outstanding.

We believe that we have a wonderful school and we want to make it even better. Like everyone at Kingham Primary School, we are always learning to be our best.

Dr William Cooper

Chair of Governors

September 2018



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