



Governor Update

Welcome to the annual Governor Update. As new Co-Chairs to this role, this year certainly hasn't been quite what we expected! As I'm sure you'll all agree we are living in unprecedented times, but we have found ways to adapt and continue and I'm pleased to say that nothing has stopped for us during this time, like everyone else, we have just had to change the way we do things.

2019-20



As a reminder, our school governing body consists of 12 members, including the Head Teacher and one staff governor. During this year, David Beavan's 4 year term of office came to an end and Catherine Seward has now joined the team. We'd like to thank David for his contribution and expertise during this time and we're very grateful to Catherine for stepping into this new role. This year we also welcomed Liz Martin as a new parent governor, Suzanne Summerhayes as a new foundation governor and Sam Brown and Ryan Ellett as associate governors.

After many years of dedication and contribution to the school, Sara Anderson and Ed Gibbes have both left as governors this year. A huge thank you to both Sara and Ed as they have both held pivotal roles as Vice-Chair and Chair respectively and they both brought a wealth of knowledge in their specific areas of expertise.

In terms of how our school has 'coped' with the challenges of Covid-19 this academic year is one that we as co-Chairs are particularly proud of. The dedication and caring attitude that has been shown by all staff during this time really seems to have shown what a great community school we have. This is also extended to all parents / carers

July 2019

who have navigated their way through home-schooling and supporting the school; it really does feel as if everyone has come together during this time to help all the children as best as they can.

The continued support for the school hasn't stopped for governors either. We have responsibility for ensuring the smooth running of the school at a strategic level and a duty of care to all the children for their educational performance. During this time the governors have attended all timetabled meetings (online) and continued with all aspects of governance where it has been safe to do so such as safeguarding checks and financial monitoring. Tracey How, as headteacher has kept all governors well informed during this time and has spent many additional hours in consultations with not just us, but also the LA, the diocese and other schools to ensure the safe running of the school.



It seems a long time ago that the school was operating 'normally' but for at least 1 ½ terms the school had been embracing the opportunities of the national curriculum. This academic year also saw the successful introduction of learning a new language for each school year. To hear Mandarin, Italian and German, to name just a few of the languages being learnt, at the Christmas Church service was impressive to say the least.

Whilst the end of primary school for our year 6s was not as anyone would have wanted, they were very fortunate to enjoy a lovely week together in Derbyshire just prior to lockdown. A big thank you to those staff who accompanied them at a time where most trips were being cancelled; We hope this will be a lasting fond memory for all our pupils who have now left Steeple and we wish them the best of luck in their next school.



This year we have also worked alongside Tracey How to update our Ethos and values which we have already started using and you may already recognise.

Ethos & Values:

- At Steeple Morden School we want our children to grow up as happy, confident, healthy and respectful individuals.
- Whilst keeping safe, we support our children to take risks in their learning, and take pride in doing their very best.

- We aspire for our children to be inquisitive and caring about their community and the wider environment.
- We encourage our children to take every opportunity provided to enrich their education and make the most of their time with us, and each other.

In essence, we want every child to **Be Brave, Kind and the Best they can be.**

We would normally include a summary of the national assessments (SATs) in our report, but as we are sure you are aware, children did not take these assessments this year. However, assessments did take place during the year and progress has been reflected in the annual reports that were sent home to parents. Staff are working very hard on ensuring that the curriculum includes time to 'catch up' where necessary for each year group, to ensure a continuation of progress for each child.

Our finances continue to be monitored very closely and we only spend where absolutely necessary as funding continues to be low. Please see below for our finance report this year.

Despite the many activities and routines that we have all missed this year, the school is now busy preparing for September and the safe return of all children to school. We wish you all a relaxing summer break after what has been a very busy and unusual year.

*Karenza Nutley & Marie Gardner
Co-chair of governors*

Finance Report 2019-20

		Budget	Actual
Income			
Funding & Grants		£763,209	£780,244
Facilities & Services		£8,970	£14,322
Catering		£54,968	£53,830
Donations / Other *		£0	£17,836
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Total Income		£827,147	£866,232
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Expenditure			
Employee Costs	Teaching	£583,082	£614,483
	Support	£89,538	£84,812
	Other	£6,876	£23,385
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£679,496	£722,680
Premises		£45,480	£47,950
Learning Resources		£17,713	£16,467
Catering (incl. staff)		£61,552	£57,273
Other *		£7,464	£21,340
Bought-in-services		£27,821	£26,284
Direct Revenue Financing		£4,633	£5,019
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Total Expenditure		£844,159	£897,013
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In Year surplus / (deficit)		(£17,012)	(£30,781)
Brought forward surplus		£20,684	£20,684
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Carried forward surplus	£3,672	(£10,097)
	=====	
CAPITAL		
Income		
Funding	£6,239	£1,771
Capitalised Revenue	£0	£0
	_____	_____
	£6,239	£1,771
Expenditure	£89,641	£63,917
	_____	_____
In Year surplus / (deficit)	(£83,402)	(£62,146)
	_____	_____
Brought forward surplus	£ 83,401	£83,401
Carried forward surplus (deficit)	(£1)	£21,255

- *'Other' accounts for circa £13k in school trips income and costs in actual column (not budgeted for)*

Commentary

This financial year we have continued to keep our costs to a minimum in order to keep our in-year deficit as low as possible but with continued low funding and not being at full capacity (approx. 180 pupils out of a possible 210), this remains an ongoing struggle.

Our overall costs have reduced and as such our actual in-year deficit ending 31 March 2020 was £30,781 (this is a £21,904 improvement on last year's deficit). Our End of year balance however, now stands at a deficit of £10,097. Many schools in our region face a similar situation and we have been reassured by our LA Financial Advisor that we are doing everything we can to stay within a reasonable spend. We are working closely with the LA to working towards reducing this deficit further.

Despite missing out on some key events this year the PTA have done a fantastic job in raising funds for the school. Most recently they organised a socially distanced 5k run, raising a fantastic £1,030. Thank you to all those who ran, marshalled, cheered, baked cakes and donated. The PTA will be using these funds to further enhance the outdoor areas at the school. Last year the PTA also provided the school with various outdoor equipment including a very popular basketball stand, the bark path was resurfaced and some reading scheme books were purchased. Thank you to all the PTA for their successful efforts in fundraising and to all of you that have supported through donations and your help at various events.