



Gorseley Bank Academy Committee

Report to parents Autumn 2019

It was an honour to take over as Chair of Governors last autumn. My predecessor, Colin Shepherd, was a hard act to follow! We are fortunate that Colin has continued to volunteer as a Governor after so many years of dedicated service supporting Gorseley Bank.

What do the Gorseley Governors do?

A cosmetic change this year has been our name. We have evolved from a Local Governing Body in to an **Academy Committee** which more accurately reflects our role within the Governance framework of the Laurus Trust.

The Board of Trustees retain overall responsibility and accountability for all schools within the Trust. Ensuring that we all benefit from collaboration and embrace shared vision and values.

The Trustees rely on the Academy Committee at each School to:

- ensure that our children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- understand how well the school is led and managed by holding our School Leaders to account
- oversee that the school's policies and procedures are implemented effectively
- engage with our parents, staff, children, community and all stakeholders
- make sure school finances are well managed

In a nutshell - we are expected to help ensure our school is the best it can be for every child here. At our termly meetings we receive reports and ask questions to ensure that children are safe, well cared for, enjoying learning and achieving.

In between meetings we visit the school, speak with staff, children and parents so that we know and understand the school well. We are very grateful to all staff for their willingness to share their expertise and their boundless enthusiasm in explaining how they teach and care for the children. The children are always keen to share their ideas and thoughts about school – a school they are justifiably very proud of.

It is very important that we know how you feel about the school. Mr Maguire makes sure we are updated on Parent Surveys and our Parent Governors provide vital contributions to the

work of the Committee. I am hoping to be able to attend some Parents' Evenings myself this year. If you want to contact me or you would be interested in volunteering as a Governor you can email me at Julie.lawson@gorseybank.net

2018-19 – a year to celebrate!

Reflecting on last years 'Action Plan for Governors' we focused on the following areas

- Governance and succession planning: a new Chair, embracing our new role as an Academy Committee, saying farewell to a number of long standing governors and we are now welcoming new Governors to the Academy Committee
- Pupil Achievement: making sure we were aware of the progress made by children and that staff had the support needed to ensure children had opportunities to succeed
- Staff and pupil wellbeing: overseeing safeguarding arrangements and being mindful of our duty of care to staff in terms of workload, mental health and wellbeing
- Trust wide relations: embracing the new framework for Governance and ensuring we optimise the benefits of collaboration

The academic year 2018-19 saw fantastic achievements by your children culminating in a hugely impressive set of results in Key Stage 2 SATs. The academic achievements have been combined with superb sporting successes, fantastic creative arts work, awesome performances and a continued plethora of extra-curricular activities. Improvements to the facilities in school, the outside grounds and the MUGA have enhanced the environment.

The passion for learning, positive attitude to reading and enthusiasm for Maths has been clear to see. All of this along with high standards of behaviour and robust safeguarding practices make Gorsey Bank Primary a fantastic place to be.

Onwards and Upwards for 2019-20

It's 'full steam ahead' as we progress through this academic year and what a start we have had with the Ofsted inspection.

This year, Mr Maguire has asked the Academy Committee us to focus on the following key priorities

- Providing a challenging and ambitious knowledge-led curriculum that reflects the needs and interests of all our pupils
- Fostering a culture of high expectations
- Ensuring exceptional behaviour and respect for all
- Developing pupils as confident, self respecting and empathetic young people

These priorities will be the focus of our discussions and work as a Academy Committee. The support of parents and commitment of all staff during the recent Ofsted inspection was inspiring. The Governors will strive to play our part to ensure Gorsey Bank continues to be a School you can all be proud of.

Julie Lawson (Chair of Governors)