

2015-16 Annual Statement of Governance - September 2016

Dear parents, carers and friends

In accordance with government's requirement for our governing board of Tor Bridge Federation, the three core strategic functions of our governing board are:

1. Ensuring clarity and vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the head teachers to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the schools and making sure that its money is well spent

In our role as governors of Tor Bridge Primary and Cann Bridge School we have worked hard to ensure these criteria's have been met and that the schools are moving forward positively.

The Governing Board was re-constituted as a two school Federation, following the de-federation of Plym Bridge Nursery School and the conversion to Academy status of Tor Bridge High.

Governors of the four schools continue to carry out their roles and responsibilities within the Tor Bridge Partnership.

The Tor Bridge Federation Governing Board includes:

- 1 Staff Governors
- 2 Parent Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 2 Headteachers
- 6 Co-opted governors
- 2 Co-opted Vacancies

The governing board at present, is made up of 14 members all bringing a wide range of skills and expertise. These members are:

2 Parent Governors - Sam Tompkins (Chair) and Louise Viney

1 LA Governor - Katie Bohannan

1 Staff Governor - Yvonne Doyle

2 Headteachers - Cathryn Tompkins and Michael Loveman

8 Co-opted Governors - Hilary Knight (Vice Chair CBS), Edyta Piekarska (Vice Chair TBP), Philippa Brown, Nicola Burrige, John Haywood and Sharyn Seaman. There are currently two Co-opted Governor vacancies.

Governors fulfil their roles and responsibilities through attendance at meetings, link roles, training, attending events and implementing the Annual management plan.

Meetings throughout the year are organised as:

- 1 Business meeting
- 4 Full Governors' meetings
- 1 Full Finance (Budget Setting) Meeting
- 3 CBS focused meetings
- 3 TBP focused meetings
- 3 Finance committee meetings
- 1 Half Day strategic planning meetings
- 1 Half Day training session

This last year has been about embedding governor skills and ensuring that both schools were being monitored and challenged in a consistent and thorough way. Governors took on extensive training and this has impacted positively on the governing board by giving us the skills needed to move forward.

The first term we embedded the changes made the previous year and continued to develop the roles within our governing board. We put policies and procedures in place and developed individual roles and responsibilities.

During the second term Tor Bridge Primary had an Ofsted inspection. All governors were there to support the school and we were disappointed that the school did not receive the outcome we thought we deserved. From this report we have fed its recommendations into our development plan for next year and are already meeting many of the criteria set and will continue to do so.

Our Chair of Governors embarked on a Chair development programme, which he has now completed and this having a positive impact on his role. All other governors completed a variety of training which has given a wider range of skills and knowledge to the board.

To make ourselves more visible and accessible to stakeholders we have been attending more social events within both schools and have put up a new display in the reception area of school. We have also analysed and surveyed parents about their use of both schools websites, which contain all relevant information about governance of the school and how to contact us.

Whilst we have managed to recruit some governors we still require volunteers to join the governing board to enable it to function in an equitable way in the future. Hopefully as we are becoming more visible to our stakeholders, it will encourage more people to come on board.

In summary, this year we have;

- Produced a portfolio of evidence
- Have undertaken website reviews
- Appointed a Deputy Head for Cann Bridge School
- Created a young carer governor link
- New governors have been appointed
- Completed a range of training and development
- Staff presentations received by governors on SEND, EYFS and Total Communication
- Finance committee implemented with a new structure
- Clerk appraisal introduced.

- Chair and Clerk completed national qualification
- Development of our collaboration of the Tor Bridge partnership
- Started to build better relationships and be more visible to stakeholders
- Attended a Vision day with SLT
- Primary assessment and curriculum
- Reviewed and adopted a number of Policies
- Reviewed Health and Safety

Areas to develop;

- To continue to develop relationships with stakeholders
- To continue to recruit people with skills to compliment the governing board

We are looking forward to continuing our development into the new academic year and will provide you with regular updates of our achievements.

If you would like to be part of this, please email tbclerk@torbridge.net.

Yours sincerely

Tor Bridge Federated Governing Board