

Compass

St Andrew's CofE Primary School Eccles

Governor Newsletter

Welcome...

...to the first issue of Compass, your new St Andrews CofE Primary School Governors Newsletter. The aim of the newsletter is to keep you up to date with our actions and involvement within the school. In this edition we share with you who the governors are, what we do, take a look at a current project we are involved in plus introduce you to the Chair of Governors, Stephen Gibbison.

We all visit the school regularly too so please feel free to stop any one of us in the playground (or anywhere else for that matter) with any question you might have about the school. If we don't know the answer there and then, we'll know someone who does. In future issues we will have further spotlights on a governor, share with you more projects we are involved in and highlight any current topics within the School. We hope you find the newsletter enjoyable and worthwhile. If you would like to see anything else covered in the newsletter please get in touch (details on the back page).



Who We Are & What We Do

Working closely with the headteacher, the main responsibility of governing bodies are defined in three key areas;

- ✓ *ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined;*
- ✓ *ensuring that the head teacher performs her responsibilities for the educational performance of the school*
- ✓ *ensuring the sound, proper and effective use of the schools financial resources.*

We try to ask useful questions to gain a greater understanding of the school and to foster an ethos of continuous improvement. A Governing Body aims to :act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the school and be open about the decisions they make and the actions they take; and in particular be prepared to explain their decisions and actions to interested parties.

In this issue....

P.2 Meet our Chair of Governors

P.2 Curriculum Update

P.3 Governor Projects : Website

P.4 Business & Finance Update

Meet our Chair of Governors; Stephen Gibbison



I was delighted last term to be elected as Chairman of the schools Governors. I intend to build on the good work of Mr. Robinson and previous Chairs to lead a happy and successful school that is the pride of the community.

I have served St Andrew's School for 13 years as a foundation governor. Foundation governors represent and are appointed by the Church of England, and I am proud to be the latest in a long line of governors from the parish church that founded our school in 1879.

I work for BAE Systems near Blackburn. I am fortunate that the company actively supports those who volunteer as school governors by allowing us to take time off work when required. Without this flexibility I and many other governors would not be able to serve.

Your Current Governors

Chair, Mr S Gibbison (Foundation)

Vice Chair, Mrs J Roebuck (Parent)

Ms A Algedaner (Parent)

Mrs R Begum (Parent)

Mrs E Charnley (Community)

Rev. A Critchlow (Foundation)

Mr A Cunliffe (Local Authority)

Miss K Leyland, Head Teacher (Staff)

Ms L Maher (Staff)

Mr S Norris (Local Authority)

Mrs C Stott (Parent)

Situations Vacant

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you are interested please contact us.

Curriculum Update

Julie Roebuck



The Curriculum Committee are responsible for ensuring the curriculum is balanced and broadly based, reviewing staff performance, staff appointments, looking at the progress and attainment of pupils and attendance plus lots more.

At each meeting we look at how much progress each class has made against the expected National Average and compared to the previous term. If classes or certain groups of pupils are not making good progress we question as to why this is and how to rectify the situation, so that our pupils are receiving the best possible help to achieve their potential. If children are making particularly good progress in certain areas, we may look at this so that we can benefit from the strategies used in this area.

At our Summer term meeting when reviewing KS2 (Yr3- Yr6) data this showed us that the National Average for children making more than expected progress in English is 88% and we achieved 100%. As we were aware that Mathematics needed some extra investment, it was agreed that the funds would be

used to provide extra training and resources to help improve the progress of our children.

Pupil attendance figures are reviewed at every meeting as great importance is placed upon children attending school regularly. Both the local authority and Ofsted keep a close eye on our attendance figures as better attendance at school is known to improve a child's educational achievements. Regular attendance at school is crucial in raising standards of education and in ensuring every child can meet their full potential. New legislation was introduced by the Department of Education on September 1st 2013 which no longer allows head teachers to grant permission for term time holidays except in exceptional circumstances.

Meetings cover an array of subjects as you can see, but all are necessary to ensure that St Andrews is a safe, happy environment for your children, providing them with best possible education that we can.

Project Work: School Website

Andrew Cunliffe



Our website started back at Easter and has since then grown substantially over the past few months.

One of the founding ideals of the website is that it will become a valuable resource for the school community. A place where parents and our local community can visit to find out anything you need to know about the School but also a place where you can visit to find out more about our daily activities, what you child(ren) are discovering, to see photos and offer you a glimpse into our school life beyond what you might see or hear at home.

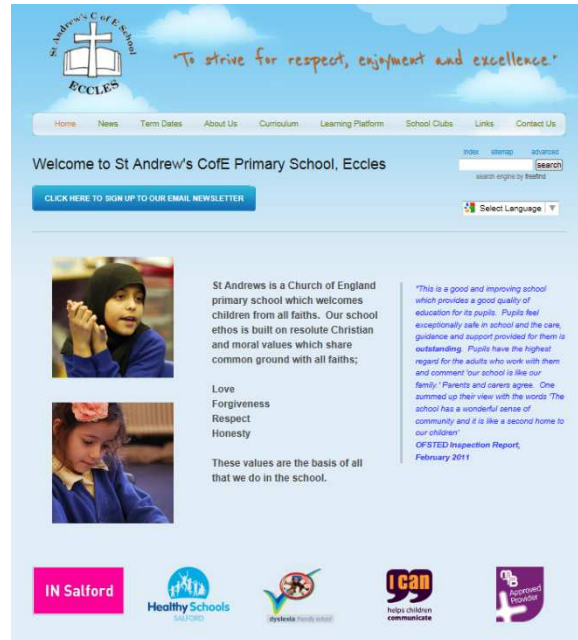
To avoid diverting valuable school funds away from the classroom we have partnered ourselves with various online companies that offer free hosting, databases etc to enable us to develop the site for zero cost without compromising on any features or ability to grow the site.

Where we are today

The site is now fully populated with all the information regarding our policies, links to our Ofsted reports, term dates, access to the Learning Platform, plus lots more! The site automatically formats to the correct settings depending on if you are accessing it via a smart phone, tablet or computer. We have also added areas such as the ICT Online Safety Centre giving tips and advice for both parents and children on staying safe online. All our news features have social network integration built in so parents can easily share with their own network of friends and family the exciting news stories from the School or what their children have been experiencing at St Andrew's.

What we are working on

Over the coming term we will be developing the curriculum and year group sections of the site. Each year group will have their own page with information specific to their activities together with resources for parents to help their children beyond the classroom. We will continue to share with you news each week from around the school with news articles, photos and videos.



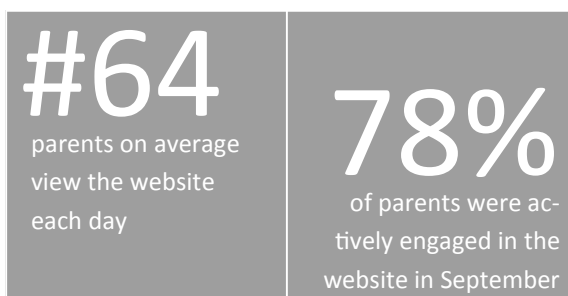
Get Involved

There are many way you can get involved in the web-site, try to visit at least once per week, we are always adding new stories to the news feed. Take part in the news articles by sharing on your favourite social network site (click the icons on each news item), or start a discussion with our online community on the comments section of the news stories.

To stay up to date on all the new features, stories, competitions and more on the website you can also sign up to our email newsletter. There is a sign up link on the home page.

I would love to hear from you about what you would like to see on our website in the future. Please email your suggestions/ideas to;

standrewswebmaster@outlook.com.



<http://standrewsprimaryschool Eccles.weebly.com/>

Business & Finance Update

Stephen Gibbison

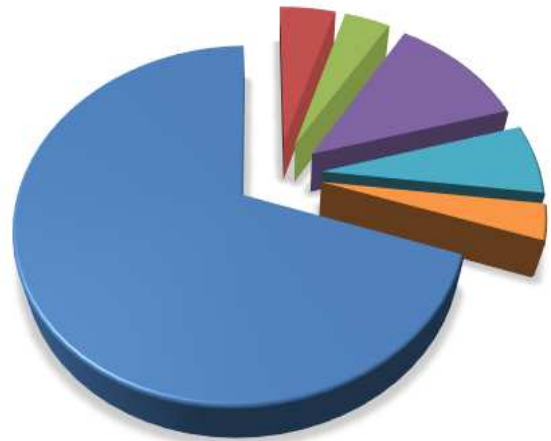


The bulk of St Andrew's funding comes from central Government via Salford City Council. What we receive is affected by factors such as the number of children in the school, and the number with special educational needs or free school meals. This year the school will receive and spend £1 million to cover the cost of 12 months education for our 206 children.

It is the role of the Business and Finance committee, which consists of Karen Leyland, Stephen Gibbison, Elizabeth Charnley, Andrew Cunliffe and Mel Whittington, to review business and financial matters in more detail.



The best learning tool is quality teaching, so it should be no surprise that we spend most of our budget in this area. Another significant area of expenditure is the services we buy such as school meals, insurances and ICT support. The chart below shows how it is broken down.



- Employees
- Curriculum (resources and training)
- Premises
- Agency cover
- Admin. & services
- Building Development & ICT

Next issue we will share with you how some of the budget has been used to fund exciting projects within the school!

How to get in touch



Drop a note off at reception.

Via the contact form on the website, address on pg. 3

For personal issues please remember to speak directly to the headteacher or your child's teacher.

Next issue will be published in the Spring Term