

[impact]

St Andrew's CofE Primary School Eccles

Governor Newsletter

Welcome...

...to the second issue of the St Andrews CofE Primary School Governor Newsletter. Since last issue we have gone through a name change from Compass to Impact. This change is to reflect the current emphasis on school governors to monitor their impact on the level of education and strategic direction of the school. Therefore we hope to develop the newsletter to illustrate to the school community the level of impact the Governing Body is having on the strategic direction of the school. To read more about this emphasis and how we are currently undergoing the biggest review of the Governing Body in St Andrew's history turn to page three for our special report on Governor Mark.

In this issue we also introduce you to your Vice Chair of Governors, Mrs Julie Roebuck, update you on the curriculum and staffing committee, provide an overview of the business and finance committee and respond to a letter from a parent.

We all visit the school regularly 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. We hope you continue to find the newsletter enjoyable and worthwhile. If you would like to see anything covered in the newsletter please get in touch (details on the back page). If you missed the first



Congratulations to the netball team for winning the recent tournament at Salford City Academy.

Who We Are & What We Do

Working closely with the head teacher, 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.*

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.

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Meet your Vice Chair of Governors; Julie Roebuck



I have been a parent governor at St Andrews for 6 years. I took on the role after a vacancy came up for the role and friends who were already governors suggested I apply. Parent Governors are elected by the other parents at the school. At the time both my daughters attended the school and I had always tried to participate in their school life, as I think it is important to involve yourself in such a vital part of your child's life.

I work for the NHS, which allows me some flexibility with time off to attend meetings, courses or to visit school during lessons in my role as Literacy Governor.

In autumn 2013 I was elected Vice Chair of the governing body which involved me taking on a little more responsibility. With the support that Governor Services offers via information and training courses and the support of the Chair of the governing body and the head teacher, I am able to fulfil the needs of this role.

I find being a governor interesting and rewarding, which is why I have continued to support the school, even though both my daughters have now moved on to secondary education. If you think you may be interested in becoming a

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)

Curriculum Update

Julie Roebuck



The Staffing and 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 amongst many other things.

Our last meeting was held in January where we looked the progress and attainment of each of our classes in reading, writing and mathematics over the autumn term and compared it to both the National Average and the previous (summer) term. The National Curriculum framework changes begin to come into force in September 2014, so preparations are already well underway to prepare to teach it.

As the quality of teaching has an impact upon progress made, it is one of our priorities that all classes have a teacher who is able to achieve the high standards that are required by ourselves and Ofsted.

If progress is not as much as we had hoped, interventions can be put in place to improve standards. These could include booster classes or resources bought in. During the

The improvement in the reading ability of some of these children was tremendous, in a relatively short space of time. Unfortunately school is unable to sustain the amount of time needed to do this on a regular basis as we do not have the resources and it would mean that other subjects, such as Mathematics and Literacy would suffer. However we discussed how parents/carers can play a big part in raising standards of reading. A new report says that just 10 minutes reading a day is one of the best ways to support your child's education-this means reading together 6 days a week gives your child 1 hour extra support. The National Literacy Trust says that children who read outside class were 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age. Reading for pleasure can also help your child to improve in other areas such as Maths. Governors are currently trying to visit school on a regular basis to listen to pupils read to help with raising the reading age of our children.

St Andrews encourages parents to spend quality time with their child reading with initiatives such as the Reading Cafe and the recent Readathon where parents/carers and wider family were encouraged to sponsor the child to read more. For more information about any of the above or you would like more advice about reading with your child please speak to their class teacher.

Governor Mark

Andrew Cunliffe



At St Andrew's we pride ourselves on the vision of the school, "to strive for respect, enjoyment and excellence." This vision has previously embodied all we do and work towards at the school. However, just as our teachers must undergo continual review and self-evaluation, it is imperative that our Governing Body also self-evaluates its own performance, challenge its decisions and monitor

Recently myself and Julie Roebuck attended Governor Live in Manchester, a national conference for governors to share and discuss best practices and hear from leading professionals together with the Department for Education. It was a thrilling and rewarding day, but despite our Governing Body having committed and talented members, we both left knowing that we could achieve much more.

We want to provide the St Andrew's teachers, students, parents and wider community with an **outstanding strategic leadership team**, which is **recognised by independent assessment**. So, it is with great delight that we can share with you our plans to spend the next twelve months working towards Governor Mark. A national award, a



This is a challenging award. Not only does a governing body need to show that it follows good procedures and fulfils statutory duties, but there is a high value placed on evidence of impact, the difference the governing body makes to a school. Governor Mark helps to sharpen practice as well as create the framework through which governor support and challenge can be shown through real evidence.

This will be the most thorough and challenging self-evaluation your governing body has put itself through in the history of St Andrew's. Every aspect of our structure, committees, training, members and all the work we do will be challenged to ensure that St Andrew's CofE Primary School has an outstanding governing body, for the

“our goal is to be an outstanding leadership team, recognised by independent assessment”

Governor Mark covers the following eight areas;

1. Organisation & Team Work
2. Recruitment and Retention
3. Self-Review, Innovation & Change
4. Strategic Leadership
5. Statutory Responsibilities
6. Strengths & Weaknesses
7. Support & Challenge
8. Impact

As part of this review the strategic direction of the school and its vision will be reviewed. We will be hosting several sessions with parents, pupils and staff to discuss your views on where you would like us to take the school over the next few years. More details on dates and times will follow on how you can participate in the review however, we would encourage everyone to be involved.

Full updates on our progress will be shared in upcoming newsletters and on the School's website.

[This is an exciting period in St Andrew's CofE Primary Schools history, a real opportunity to take the school to a new level of excellence.](#)

Business & Finance Update

Stephen Gibbison



Investment

The recent bad weather over night resulted in the tree in the playground falling over which has damaged the perimeter wall. The wall was made safe, however a permanent repair was needed which is currently being undertaken.

We are currently reviewing the wooden structures in the infant playground and have allocated £10,000 to create a new outside classroom environment, similar to that in the junior playground. This new structure will allow an under-cover outside learning space for the infants and create a flexible open environment to be utilised for a variety of learning experiences.

We are also currently assessing the signage around the

Budget

The school's budget remains stable and in line with our projections and spending plans, with a £71,000 contingency budget carried forward into the next financial year.

We have recently performed financial benchmarking with other similar schools in the UK which highlighted that our spend on curriculum is in line with national averages. Our teaching spend is lower whilst our supply teacher spend is slightly higher than national average. Unfortunately this is due to the departure of teaching staff at short notice. We hope to recruit replacement staff as soon as possible which will address the imbalance. We also spend more on pupil support staff than the national average which is in line with our Christian ethos and was acknowledged by Ofsted who

Your questions answered

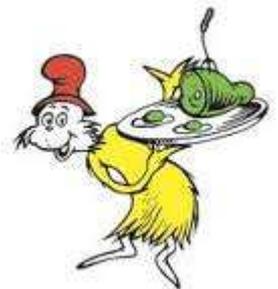
Is my child eligible for free school meals in September?

Firstly, thank you for your question. From September 2014 all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools in England will be eligible for free school meals (FSMs). This is also sometimes called Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) and more recently Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM), but they are all the same! Existing entitlements to free school meals for disadvantaged pupils in nursery classes and at key stages 2-4 will continue as now, based on the existing free school meals eligibility criteria.

Whilst schools will be expected to offer FSMs to all infant

their own policies in relation to packed lunches. The Children and Families Bill places a legal duty on state-funded schools in England, to offer a free school lunch to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2. Subject to Royal Assent, which is expected in March 2014 (just after this issue was sent to print), the duty will come into force from September 2014.

We are currently reviewing the impact of this on the school's resources and infrastructure. As soon as the Department for Education (DfE) has finalised plans on



If you have a question please contact us and we will feature it in the next issue.

How to get in touch

Drop a note off
at reception.

Email us @
standrewsgovernors@outlook.com

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

Next issue will be published in the Summer Term

Newsletter edited and designed by Andrew Cunliffe.