



Alexander Hosea Primary School

'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

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6th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

The main purpose of the Governing Body is to: ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; hold the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and to oversee the financial performance of the school, making sure its money is well spent.

During the last academic year (2018-19) I have sought to keep you up to date with the work of the governors by including a brief report in the school newsletter after each Full Governing Body (FGB) meeting. In this letter I wish to outline the work of each committee this year, how we gather evidence, celebrate the successes of the school and how we are meeting the particular challenge of the school budget.

Last year the governing body worked under three committees: Teaching and Learning; Finance and staffing; and Premises and Welfare.

Teaching and Learning

Maintaining standards is an important aspect of school life and the charts below demonstrate that Alexander Hosea School continues to maintain high standards of achievement in all areas. Our results are consistently above national averages and often significantly above. We also need to continue to ensure that all groups of children make good progress over time while they are at AHS. We know that children in the non-reporting years also achieve well along with children with additional needs or those needing just a little extra help. In reaching that judgement we take advice from the School Improvement Advisor, Local Authority subject advisors as well as scrutinize target setting data and look at the results of moderation visits.

The governors are delighted with the results this year and wish to thank the pupils, staff and parent/carers for their continued dedication and hard work.

Key stage 1 comparative report		
Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard: Alexander Hosea School (2019)	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard nationally (2019)*
English reading	84%	76%*
English writing	77%	68%*
Mathematics	81%	75%*

Key stage 2 comparative report		
Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard: Alexander Hosea School (2019)	Percentage of pupils of achieving the expected standard nationally (2019)*
English reading	75%	73%*
English grammar, punctuation and spelling	88%	78%*
Mathematics	92%	78%*

English writing (teaching assessment)	92%	78% (2018)**
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Reception	
	GLD (good level of development)
National 2019	72%*
AHS 2019	85%

**Percentages for national averages are based on provisional headline information on the 2019 national curriculum assessments. The full national data reports for 2018-19 are not released until later in the autumn term.*

***2019 data not yet available.*

With recent changes in Ofsted inspections we are advised that there is now a greater emphasis placed on the quality of the curriculum. I have been a governor at AHS for almost 5 years now and during that time I have observed the hard work of all staff in the development of a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of the all children. The teachers foster the children's desire to learn and ask questions and they create learning environments which enable all children to learn in a way that suits them best. We know this by visiting the classrooms, attending curriculum staff meetings, looking at children's work and by talking to the children. Our Governor Day in March was particularly effective. We also know that the school is valued further afield as teachers from other schools visit AHS as part of their professional development.

Finance and Staffing

The Finance sub Committee remains focused on providing the best possible education for our children with very limited funding. Our current budget forecast indicates that we will go into deficit in the year 2019-20 as we spend both all our income and our reserves. Many schools in South Gloucestershire are in the same position.

The main improvements to the fabric of the school in the last 12 months were mostly funded by South Gloucestershire Council (works to the roof and replacement of pipes and the installation of two new boilers – all happened in the summer holiday 2018). We contributed £1,000 to the roof works and additionally spent £2,500 on new computer equipment.

SGC are also funding the refurbishment of the kitchen over this summer break and the ongoing roofing works planned for October half term.

We were able to spend a large percentage of our designated "sports funding" to subsidise the Prince William Award Scheme (£6k). The largest new equipment spend was on replacement gym mats and a mat trolley (£1k). Sports funding is allocated to spend on sports and physical wellbeing.

We scrutinize expenditure and help to ensure that best value for money is achieved without compromising on the standard of education we provide. We are very grateful for the efforts of the Friends of Alexander Hosea who continue to raise significant amounts of money which are used for both basic equipment as well as enrichment activities such as the whole school trip to Berkley Castle. Please continue to support the 'Friends', their work and your support are greatly valued by the children, staff and governors.

Premises and Welfare

The purpose of this committee is twofold, ensuring that the buildings are well maintained and safeguarding the welfare of the children. The health and safety aspect of school life is closely monitored along with the

maintenance of the fabric of the building. The governors have always been aware of the safety of the children in the school buildings, playground and field. Governors complete regular site walks to identify issues alongside the School Business Manager and Caretaker and monitor the progress of repairs and improvements.

Safeguarding children's welfare is the concern of all staff and governors. Each year the 'safeguarding' governor takes part in the safeguarding audit and monitors any action points that arise. Governors are expected to attend safeguarding training and to update their knowledge every three years. Some governors attended the safeguarding training on September 2nd this year alongside school staff.

Future governance arrangements

It has been decided to alter the structure of the committees for 2019 - 2020. Because the largest expenditure (other than staffing) that the school has control over relates to the premises we have joined together Finances and Premises. This should enable the recommendations of the premises committee to be approved by the finance committee in a more streamlined way. A separate Staffing and Welfare committee has been created to cover staffing issues, safeguarding and the welfare of the pupils and staff. The Teaching and Learning committee will remain the same.

We will let you know the effectiveness of the new committee structure during the year.

I will shortly be stepping down as a governor at Alexander Hosea, which will mean that there will be a new chair of governors elected during the academic year 2019-2020. I have been a volunteer and a school governor at AHS for almost 5 years and have thoroughly enjoyed my time in school. I have found the staff to be welcoming, hardworking and professional and the children to be hardworking, well behaved and delightful. I will miss the school, but as I am in the process of moving to Bath I feel that I will not be able to dedicate the same amount of time to the school.

Governor recruitment is a constant issue. A governor's term of office is 4 years, it's remarkable how quickly that time goes. We will soon be recruiting another parent governor. Please consider the role, it is most rewarding and a wonderful way to support your child's education. If you do not wish to be a full governor you could become an Associate Member, possibly aligned to a committee where you have particular knowledge or expertise. You would be welcome, but not expected, to attend FGBs. The main difference is that you would not be able to vote.

Kind regards

Celia Rogers (Chair of Governors)