



Governor newsletter

Dane Royd Junior and Infant School



Building upon success

Hello, my name is Ian Patterson and I am Chair of Governors at Dane Royd. Welcome to another Governor newsletter, where we continue to share our work and involvement in your child's school. The Governing Body's role is to support, challenge and monitor the school, working to continually improve the school for your child, to achieve all that they can.

Ian Patterson
CTA ATT FCCA ACA
Chair of Governors

Planning School Development

Despite some radical changes to the SATs in 2016, last summer saw some great headline results for the then year 6 children. Dane Royd headline results were above national levels, which is a real testament to the children, and the hard work of the teachers.

Year 6 2016	Dane Royd	National
Reading	70%	66%
Writing	88%	74%
Maths	85%	70%
Combined	67%	53%
SPAG	91%	72%

However there is always room for improvement and the final year 6 results are only part of the picture. The progression and development of all children, no matter which class they are in, is extremely important to us.

As parents we often focus on the final results of our child. However the school performance is measured using two criteria; (1) The children's final results, and (2) How they have progressed

The analysis undertaken in 2016 looked at what worked well, such as the changes to teaching Maths at Key Stage 2, and what areas needed improving, such as reading across all school.

By understanding how all children had performed and progressed in the 2015/16 academic year, the Leadership Team and Governing Body were able to develop a plan of action for the current academic year (2016/17).

The four priorities for the current academic year are;

Priority 1: Raising attainment and progress for more able pupils, with a particular focus on KS 1

Priority 2: Developing reading across schools so that pupils are prepared for the rigour of SATs

Priority 3: Ensuring that provision for Pupil Premium pupils meets their learning needs, reducing attainment gaps in all year groups

Priority 4: Continuing to narrow gender gaps in writing, with stronger outcomes for boys

Website changes

Please visit the school website regularly. The school website continues to change and is packed with information about the school, classes, curriculums, our



Governors, and policies. The website also includes school performance data, which we monitor and evaluate as part of our role. The website is worth a visit if you have not recently looked.

www.DaneRoyd.com

Kettlethorpe

Dane Royd are part of the Kettlethorpe Collaborative Partnership with a number of other schools. The partnership not only allows for the sharing of good practice for the benefit of all schools, but also helps smooth the transition from year 6 at Dane Royd to year 7 at Kettlethorpe. This closer working relationship ensures enhanced pupil learning and outcomes at all levels.

And you may have seen some of the changes in school. For example in relation to priority 2 we have renewed our reading scheme, acquired a further 1,000 books across school. This is in addition to the further 550 books we have available for home loan, or the hundreds of new books we have in class and the school library. The reading schemes and reading initiatives across school have all been reviewed and improved, with the results being closely monitored.

This does not mean that other things will be neglected. The school continues to implement what worked well in the past and are building on it. For example the learning from the year 6 Maths success last year has already been shared as best practice across school.



This process of “review and improve”, continually occurs to help give your child the greatest chance to achieve all they can. The main 2016 performance data, further information and links to the Department of Education website can be found on the Dane Royd website www.DaneRoyd.com.

The monitoring visits

I joined the governing body as a parent governor in July 16 and became a member of both the Standards and Resources committee. I also took on the role of link governor for Pupil Premium and the Early Years' classes. I then signed up to quite a few training courses and visits into school.

'Learning walks' are an opportunity to see how the school are putting their plans and priorities into practise. The learning walks involve walking around the school with either the Head or Deputy Head and spending a few minutes in each class. Each learning walk focussed on a particular area - for example Pupil Premium, Behaviour, Writing. Governors and the Leadership Team complete a short report on each visit, with Leadership Team feeding back to the teaching staff feedback on anything that was seen during the visit.

Parents want to know that their child is being taught at a level which is appropriate to their ability and for this reason there can sometimes be concerns about the mixed year group classes. The visits into school have shown me that differentiation happens in every class all the time! In mixed classes there is often a differentiated curriculum for each year and I have seen in practice how a teacher has split the class so each year group can be taught something different. In a maths lessons I observed children studying the same concept in 4 different ways. Some children were using blocks and other equipment to answer the questions they had been set while other children were working independently on more challenging questions. There are always challenge questions so children who finish quickly can be pushed and developed further. In some classes children were working together and they are encouraged to ask a friend to assist them if the teaching staff are engaged with other children. Teaching assistants are always sat supporting small groups of children working at their own level.

Throughout school I also witnessed a wide range of intervention work being done in small groups usually led by a teaching assistant. On all of my visits all children have been remarkably well behaved and are focussed on whatever activity they are doing at the time.

Anna Kirby

About me – I'm a parent governor with kids in Years 2, 4 and 5. Outside my governor role, I'm a qualified accountant and finance director for a family business.

