

Resources Committee Annual Report 2021

To all Swavesey Primary School parents,

What a year!

I want to start this report with a massive thank you to all staff within the school. The past 12 months has been far from a normal school year, but the support and dedication demonstrated by all of the staff to keep the school open throughout the year has been amazing. As Governors we have seen the effort and hard work that it has taken from each and every staff member to keep the school operational whilst also providing the support needed to enable remote working for so many. As a parent - as many of our Governors are – I look to teachers and all support staff with even more admiration having had a taste of homeschooling over the past year!

Although our Governor meetings have moved to Zoom, we continue to meet at least twice a term to consider the financial, premises, health and safety, safeguarding and personnel aspects of the school's operations and development. A summary of our current objectives as a committee are:

Finance: Provide support and challenge to the Headteacher and Schools Business Manager in all areas relating to financial governance during the year.

Personnel: Work with the Headteacher to ensure that the schools people resources are best utilised. In the short term ensuring these are aligned to the Schools Development Plan, and longer-term considering options such as the potential sharing of resource or academisation.

Premises: To provide overview and guidance on all technical and hard services.

Health and Safety: To provide overview and checks to ensure all H&S matters conform to legislation and guidance, and Covid safe practices.

The committee has seen some changes this year, with the departure of some long-standing governors and the joining of new governors. We also said goodbye to our Clerk this year and wish Linda all the very best. We have recently welcomed Katie into this role who is working across both the resources committee and at the full governing body meetings. Governor attendance at committee meetings is high and we are lucky to have such an enthusiastic committee, with us all taking on different areas of the school's development plan to review, challenge and support the school to achieve. We always welcome feedback and questions from parents so please do contact any of us if you have any questions or issues relating to our objectives that you would like us to consider.

Governors receive an update on the school's financial situation at every meeting. Schools budgets are notoriously stretched so juggling the need to balance the school's budget against investing in the school to keep it developing and progressing is a particularly important but increasingly difficult task. Mrs Whistler's prudent budget management skills are invaluable in keeping the budget on track and providing transparency with the whole budget process – something that we as a committee are very thankful for.

With increasing financial challenges, the need to raise additional funding for the school is key. A particular thanks to the PTA this year who have had a difficult year but not given up thinking of innovative and new ways of raising money whilst normal fundraising events have not been able to take place. From fun-runs to pet competitions the money raised at these events comes directly back to the school to reinvest. The most recent assistance from the PTA has been a massive contribution towards the replacement of new interactive TV boards across the school, replacing the outdated projectors that are currently in place in many of our classrooms. An investment that will benefit pupils for many years to come.

Over the past year we have supported the school with reviewing of risk assessments and changes to the school premises that have been necessary. You'll have seen and benefitted from the installation

of the new gate at the rear of the school, and additional premises spend this year included replacement external lighting and signage, some internal decoration and the automation of the front gate.

In terms of the personnel aspects, we have helped with recruitment of new staff to fill vacancies as needed and the well-being of all of the staff remains utmost importance to the resources committee – more so this year than ever.

Some of the positives that this year has brought about should not be forgotten. Almost overnight, the school had to adapt the building, ensure that the values and vision for the school as well as the learning and curriculum could be delivered remotely. Many staff had to learn new skills to enable them to develop online lessons, and back office processes were re-engineered to ensure they could be carried out electronically and paper free. We will continue to work with the school to look at the benefits that some of this change has brought, and consider the changes that we might wish to continue into the future.

We are proud of the achievements and resilience demonstrated by staff and pupils this year, and in particular to Mrs Norden who has shown exceptional leadership and been at the forefront of the continuous changes that have been necessary. We pride ourselves that the school is such a big part of the community and I know that the weekly updates and video blogs from Mrs Norden were welcomed by so many during difficult times.

We become hopeful that September starts to bring some of the school's normal routines and practices back. We will continue to support the school to adapt to any national and local authority guidance that is in place in the meantime, but as governors we remain confident that the schools leadership have a clear vision to ensure our school continues to develop and provide a safe, stimulating and healthy environment that develops our children to be happy, healthy, confident and independent lifelong learners.

We wish all staff, parents and pupils a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break.

Lynsey Fulcher

June 2021

On behalf of the Resources Committee