



Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre
Governor effectiveness - self-evaluation 2014-15

Governors considered what they had done in meetings which improved outcomes and wellbeing for the children and of the staff in the school	
Full Governing Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor monitoring visits - 80% of the Governing Body have carried out monitoring visit. A total of 13 visits over the academic year. This provides Governors with a greater depth of knowledge and insight into the day to day running of the Centre, enabling them to challenge more effectively • Implemented new Governor Monitoring Visit days to ensure breadth of visits across the Centre • Changed format of the FGB meetings - one Strategic Meeting/one Operational Meeting each term. This has given time for Governors to explore ideas more fully, challenge, target training needs, develop knowledge, make decisions more carefully and provided a clearer focus in meetings • Operational meetings have enabled Governors to focus on statutory duties • SEN training from SENCo gave Governors an understanding of the new SEND reforms - to ensure the Centre was ready for the new SEN provision • New Chair of the GB, completed Leadership Development Programme - bought new ideas to our GB, new style of leadership in meeting and challenge • Governors coming to meetings prepared with questions for Headteachers Report. Headteachers Report gives progress towards CDP to enable Governors to challenge • Governor input in termly newsletters to ensure parents are aware of the GB and their role. We created 'Who's Who' document and Governors attend parent evening to meet/greet, answer questions and promote the Centre • New Clerk has bought new outlook on statutory requirements and clarity to report writing • Governor effectiveness discussed at the end of each meeting • Governor training on the Ofsted Framework gives Governors greater insight into the criteria to challenge, self-evaluate and hold to account, identified gaps in knowledge for Governors • Governor training is monitored and shared at meetings • Recruited new Governors with the right skill sets and experience to allocate to the appropriate committee and agreed all Governor roles for the year • Reviewed statutory requirements for the Centre website • Joined DALSCo which allows us to access grants/training options etc, in the future with the Dorking Schools Partnership.
Resources Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitored whole Centre budgets closely to ensure year-end balance/carry forward • Budget monitoring ensured we continue to provide a good service to our users

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researched ways to generate income in the future via sponsorship • Identified new processes and induction systems to generate and maximise income in the 2-3s • Implemented and monitored a new staffing structure in the Children's Centre to ensure it was affordable and sustainable • Setting new fees for the nursery within parental budgets versus financial prudence • Provided challenge to the Head and SLT regarding decision on staffing - focussing on impact and quality within the budget • Implemented new crèche donations generate income to support costs (as crèche staff not provided in county budget) • Bought new Governors onto the committee with strong financial skills • Reviewed all finance and resources related policies to ensure they are up to date with legislation/statutory requirements and meet the centre needs • Reviewing Financial Monitoring Report expenditure and funding and challenged effectiveness of each area of spend.
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through regular and routine inspections the committee has maintained a working environment which keeps children and staff safe • A new prioritisation plan allows efficient use of resources, time and space • Routine inspections ensure the Centre is compliant with all Health and safety regulations • New committee members bringing experience from their work environment has provided a new approach to reporting and observing the site.
Nursery Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established new Nursery Committee to focus Governor knowledge and specialism to support and challenge as appropriate • Greater awareness of what Ofsted are looking for in inspections by researching recent reports for maintained nurseries • Changed the Governor visit form to focus on evidence for Managing feelings and behaviour due to low outcomes in this area
Children's Centre committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established new Children's Centre Committee to focus Governor knowledge and specialism to support and challenge as appropriate • Through working with Governors; created a new caseload management tool; saves time and improved management of resources - allows identification of target groups • Developed adult tracker to track adult learning which has improved data available and identify gaps • Governors have greater awareness of data and therefore more active in challenging data - discussions lead to new ideas • Governors involved in recruitment and staffing in the Children's Centre as part of the restructure, resulted in Children's Centre being fully staffed and on going improvements being made in the CC.

If you have any questions for the Governing Body of Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre, please contact us vis the office or admin@dorking.surrey.sch.uk; FAO Helen Berry, Chair of Governors.