

# **Holmewood/Maytree/Triangle Nursery Schools' Federation Annual Governance Statement 2017/2018**

The Department for Education suggests that each year all schools explain what their governing body has done in their Annual Governance Statement.

## **THE GOVERNING BODY?**

Maintained nursery schools have school governors; these are unpaid volunteers. The Holmewood, Maytree and Triangle Federation has twelve members, which includes two governors elected by parents, one appointed by the local authority, the Executive Headteacher, one member of staff elected by the staff, and seven people who have been 'co-opted' (selected) by the governing body because they have skills or experience that can help the schools. You can see information about the governors and their attendance records on our schools' websites.

The key role of the Governing Body is to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Hold the Executive Headteacher to account for the well-being and progress of children and staff at all of the federation's nursery schools
- Oversee the financial performance of the federation and make sure it's money is well spent.

It also appoints the Executive Headteacher, who oversees the whole federation, and is involved with the recruitment of the Heads of School at each nursery school.

The governors work with the school's leadership team to provide strategic leadership and hold them to account.

The full Governing Body meets to discuss the federation as a whole and to receive information from the Individual School Committees (ISC) and the Resources Committee. There is an ISC for each of the nursery schools, focusing on each individual school's needs and development. This committee includes members of the Governing Body, the Executive Headteacher and the Head of School. They also welcome the input from staff and parents/carers and other stakeholders. The Resources Committee focuses on all financial, health and safety, human resources and premises matters.

## **WHAT HAS THE GOVERNING BODY DONE IN 2017/18?**

We have met as a full group three times during the school year (termly) as have the Resources Committee and Individual School Committees. Governors have also been involved in recruitment interviews, safeguarding reviews and the Executive Headteacher's appraisal. They have made school visits to monitor the attainment and progress of all children with specific attention to children with special educational needs and looked after children. Governors also attended the Ofsted inspections in May and July 2018.

The sections below explain what we've done this year for each of the key responsibilities we have.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

2017/18 has been the first year of the hard federation of the three nursery schools. Ofsted inspections for all three nursery schools were due and so far two have taken place. The building work has continued for the new premises for Maytree Nursery School and is nearly complete.

A new structure to the Governing Body meetings was formed to include Individual School Committee meetings. These meetings are key to the success of the federation, and have enabled the Governing Body to closely monitor each individual nursery school and ensure the Vision, Ethos and Strategic Direction is working for all nursery schools.

Another focus of the Governing Body has been to ensure the long-term future for the nursery schools and children's centres and joining forces as a federation has been a key part of this. The

Governing Body explored expanding the federation to include the other two Lambeth nursery schools.

### **HOLDING THE NURSERY SCHOOLS TO ACCOUNT**

An important part of the Governing Body's role is to ask questions. There is a lot of information for governors to look at about children's achievement, staffing and attendance. We look at children's assessment data to see whether any group, for example, gender, children with special educational needs or ethnic group) is not making as much progress as other groups. If they are not, we ask what the nursery school is doing to address this. Our aim is always to provide the best possible care for all the children attending each of our nursery schools.

We make regular visits to the schools to monitor what has been discussed at meetings and see the schools in action.

Both Triangle and Holmewood Nursery Schools received an Ofsted inspection this year and maintained their 'Outstanding' ratings. The feedback from Ofsted then informs our improvement plans for the future. Triangle will have a further visit within the next two years.

### **FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE NURSERY SCHOOLS**

The Resources Committee meets three times a year to discuss funding and spending of all the nursery schools, together with applicable policy and health and safety matters. It feeds back relevant items to the full Governing Body.

Funding of nursery schools continues to be challenging, as contributions from the local authority have remained static for several years, while costs, in particular staffing costs, continue to increase on an annual basis. The Federation of the three schools, Holmewood, Maytree and Triangle has enabled them to continue to offer Outstanding provision to the children and families on the roll. More creative approaches to funding have also helped, and we now provide parents with access to extended hours and holiday provision. We are particularly pleased at the improvement in numbers in Triangle through the initiatives of the new Head of School, using the resources of the Federation.

A key concern of the Governing Body looking forward is to ensure that each school is able to continue to provide this Outstanding provision to the children and families it serves, despite the ongoing financial pressures. Expanding the Federation in 2018/9 to include both Effra and Ethelred nursery schools will present organisational challenges, but the Governing Body believes very strongly that it is in the best interests of all the nursery schools.