

GOVERNORS 2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT

The role of the Full Governing Body (FGB) at Rowdeford is to support the School in achieving high educational standards, which ensure that our pupils are educated to their full potential.

The Governors fulfil their remit by:

- * ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- * holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the School and its pupils
- * overseeing the financial performance of the School and making sure money is well spent.

During 2016/17 the following actions were taken by Governors:

- 1) In September 2016, our long-serving and outstanding Headteacher, Ingrid Sidmouth notified Governors of her intention to retire on 31 August 2017. Governors therefore initiated a recruitment process to find her successor. In January 2017, Governors were delighted to be able to inform Parents/Carers and Staff that, after a thorough process involving some excellent candidates, we had decided to appoint our existing Deputy Headteacher, Mike Loveridge as our new Headteacher. Mike takes up his new post on 1 September 2017. Governors then commenced a process to recruit a new Deputy Headteacher and in March were delighted to announce the appointment of Terri Chard as our new Deputy Headteacher. Terri takes up her new post at the start of the next Academic Year in September 2017.
- 2) Our Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) steering group has continued to review the options available to Rowdeford to join or create a MAT in order to assure the future of the School. This has involved ongoing consultation with the Local Authority on their plans for Special Educational Needs in Wiltshire. After extensive investigations into all potential MAT partners within the local area, the steering group recommended Excalibur Academies Trust (EAT) as the best partner for Rowdeford. This recommendation was approved by Governors in February and a process of due diligence was begun. This exercise was completed in May and after holding consultation meetings with Parents and Carers and Staff on 11 May, Governors approved the recommendation from the School's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to apply to join EAT at their meeting on 22 May. The application was submitted to the DfE on the 29th May. The process of review and approval is likely to take some months to complete. The School hopes to join EAT in the first half of 2018.
- 3) The Rowdeford Charity Trust (RCT) informed the School in November 2016 that they had succeeded in raising sufficient funds to complete the construction of phase 1 of our Outdoor Learning Centre (ODLC) during the Summer of 2017. Construction plans for the new facility were finalised and tendered in January, resulting in Wilkins being appointed as contractor in April. The work has commenced and Phase 1 is expected to be completed in August 2017. The ODLC will be called The Ingrid Sidmouth Centre in recognition of Ingrid's long and distinguished service to the School. The new Centre is expected to significantly enhance outdoor learning at Rowdeford, which continues to flourish.
- 4) During the year, the Governing Body was strengthened by the recruitment of a new Community Governor: Charles Burgess. We continue to see new Governors with the

skills and experience to enhance the work of the Governing Body. New Governor induction was carried out by Liz Yaun, our longest serving Governor.

- 5) Throughout the year, our FGB agendas continued to focus on the key issues for Governors: strategy, performance and the effective use of resources. Our two sub-Committees were Standards & Welfare, chaired by Rosalie Allen, and Resources, co-chaired by Annette Foster and Antonia Brooks.
- 6) We reviewed the educational performance of the School and its pupils at every meeting, including a detailed annual review of progress and achievements for the previous academic year. In the opinion of SLT and Governors, the level of attainment continues to be outstanding.
- 7) We received a report from the Headteacher on the performance of the School at every meeting, on which questions were asked and answered. A specific area of focus continues to be pupil behaviour and child safeguarding, where Governors continue to monitor the success of planned interventions to minimise the impact of disruptive behaviour on the learning of all pupils.
- 8) In September 2016, we had an Ofsted inspection. Governors were disappointed with the overall finding of Good, but were pleased that Rowdeford was deemed to be Outstanding in three of the four categories, including outcomes for pupils. The recommendations for improvement made by the Ofsted inspectors have all been implemented.
- 9) We completed our annual assessment under the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) in March 2017 and approved our annual budget in May 2017. Matching the School's expenditure to the available funding continues to be very challenging in the current environment. This has involved looking at various opportunities to improve value for money. In reviewing options to save money, Governors are always mindful of the need to make decisions in the best interests of our pupils' education and safeguarding.
- 10) We elected Annette Foster as our new Chair of Governors with effect from 1 September 2017, so that she takes the Chair on the same date that Mike Loveridge becomes our new Headteacher. Governors are confident that Annette and Mike will form a highly effective team to lead the School in meeting the challenges of the years ahead.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to chair the Full Governing Body of Rowdeford School during 2016/17. I would like to thank my fellow Governors for their time and efforts in supporting the School's Senior Leadership Team to deliver an outstanding educational experience to our pupils and to wish my successor, Annette Foster every success in her term as Chair.

Nigel Halkes

July 2017