



## **Governor impact report 2016/2017**

The Governing Body of Guildford Nursery School and Children's Centre, works together to provide an independent oversight of the management and operation of the Centre. Our aim is make sure that the quality of our services is maintained and improved, standards are raised and that the children, parents and carers using our Centre are happy and safe and make good progress in all their endeavors.

To achieve this aim, the Governing Body must continually evaluate the role it has played within the life of the Centre and its impact on Centre improvement. This report is part of that evaluation.

### **Centre Development Plan**

Governors have worked with the Interim Head, new Head Teacher and senior leadership team to monitor the Centre Development Plan and make sure that the priorities set have been met. Each of the three sub committees (Children & Learning, Resources and Staffing) have taken responsibility for monitoring different parts of the plan via visits to the Centre to see changes in action and reporting back to the Full Governing Body. We continually challenge and support where necessary.

### **Governor recruitment**

We said goodbye to two governors this year: Liz Parnell and Nick Creagh. Both Liz and Nick contributed a considerable amount of time to the Governing Body and the Centre during their time as governors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts, and wish them all the very best for the future.

In their stead, we appointed two new governors. Robert Cockerill has joined our team as parent governor and Claire Easton has joined as a co-opted governor. Both Robert and Claire are parents to children who have attended our Nursery School and bring new skills to the Governing Body, including a background in educational data, surveys and research, as well as one in technology and project management.

We also said goodbye to our Clerk, Diane Freeman, in January. Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work over the years. Jennifer Cosgrave has joined us as our new Clerk. Jen has previously worked within Surrey school admissions and brings valuable insight with her.

### **Governor visits**

The number of governor visits has increased again this year, thanks to the fully-staffed governing body. Next year we hope to increase our visits further.

Visits are made to help us monitor progress of the Centre Development Plan, and also to help us get to know better staff, children, parents and carers – all the people who use our Centre in its different guises. They give us fresh insight and firsthand knowledge.

This year, the Governing Body has worked hard to focus visits on specific Centre Development Plan targets, so helping us to provide improved support and challenge. Examples of visits include:

- Termly visits made by our new Safeguarding link governor, to make sure that procedures and policies are being followed correctly and that all members of staff are confident about their safeguarding responsibilities.
- Termly Health and Safety visits at York Road and Hazel Avenue to make sure that maintenance and safety precautions are being met.
- Children & Learning visits to see how the staff and children interact, as well as attending the Christmas lunch and leavers picnics on a less formal basis.
- Resources visits focusing on increasing marketing and promotional activity
- Children's Centre focused visits to learn more about 'Chatterboxes' and other courses for parents and children,
- Governors have also attended other school's fetes along with Centre staff, to market our services more within the community.

### **Staff recruitment**

The Governing Body has been involved in the recruitment and selection of a number of staff, including the new Head Teacher and a new Early Years Teacher, and have fully participated in the restructure of the nursery team.

### **Policies**

The Governing Body has reviewed a number of Centre policies and have scheduled an ongoing review timetable to make sure they are reviewed regularly and kept up to date and relevant going forward.

### **Financial management**

One of our key priorities continues to be to get the Centre on a much firmer financial footing. As part of this we have looked at further cost-cutting, as well as identifying new ways to increase the income we earn. We still have some way to go, but we are heading in the right direction. With the help of our new School Business Manager, who arrived just before the start of this school year, we are confident that we can reach the point where the Centre is self-sustaining.

### **Governor meeting attendance**

The Head Teacher and Chair of Governors meet or talk on a weekly basis to discuss governance and Centre related matters. There are four formal meetings of the Full Governing Body each year and committees also meet each term. Governor attendance is usually good. Any absence is fully explained and noted.

### **Impact statement**

The Governing Body, Head Teacher and all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the Centre. We have been successful in implementing a number of further changes this year, all leading to better outcomes for the children, parents and carers using the Centre. We are delighted

with our 'Good' rating from Ofsted and are now aiming to make this an 'Outstanding' at the next inspection.

We will continue to work hard to ensure that the teaching, learning and safety of our children, parents and carers, is central to all that we do.

Sam Kubunavanua  
Chair of Governors  
July 2017