

July 2015

## Message from the Chair

We have delivered the 5 year vision and strategic direction for Millfields which recognises individuality and focuses on our strengths in investing in our children, creating an environment where our children love to learn.

We audited our strategic performance. We looked at what we do well and where there is room to do something better or differently. We worked as a focused group of parent staff and governance representatives and delivered a six point plan, which received external recognition and was integral to a recent SIP (School Improvement Partner) visit.

We looked at ourselves and how we could ensure we are fit for purpose and compliant with the reconstitution obligations we received. The instrument of government has been verified, agreed and published.

We have carefully managed our budget. We can demonstrate that every penny we spend is of benefit to our children. We have found this year challenging as there were unexpected costs we had to incorporate. This resulted in an overspend that we have to manage and have an effective action plan to pay that down and still invest in our children.

We continue to invest in our teaching staff to ensure we have great teaching, and staff who are able to offer consistency and stability for our children.

We are a challenging governing body. The SLT are called to account formally and regularly. We are the school's supportive but critical friends.

The Board of Governors and the Chair often involve themselves in the school beyond their official remit, although we are careful not to overstep our boundaries. We are responsible for the overall health of the climate, orientation and reference of the school. A great example is in the Democracy Week which our children fully engaged with. Three governors were the heartbeat of this initiative along with teaching staff.

In general this has been a successful year for the school and we look forward to the new academic year and getting ready for any future challenges.

From my position as Chair of governors, I am immensely proud of our whole child-centred approach.

In Millfields we have an exciting, professional and responsive school. I think we help shape children's lives so they can be proud of themselves, their abilities and achievements so they can gain a love of learning that will set them up for life. I commend our staff's professionalism, care and energy.

Thanks to everyone.

Damian

On behalf of the Board of Governors.