

Bleasby School Governors' Report for the Annual Parish Meeting
May10th 2018

The school currently has 160 pupils on roll distributed with over 70% living within the school's catchment area. Attendance, at 98%, is very good and pupils benefit from the high quality of teaching from experienced staff. The curriculum follows national guidelines and is enhanced by a wide range of out of school activities including residential experiences for the older pupils as well as varied sporting activities where the expertise of teaching staff is augmented by that of specialist coaches.

Music and drama performances are often the highlights of the year and are of a high standard. The school also provides a Breakfast and an After-School Club - both of which are well used.

St Mary's Church and the West Trent Benefice are increasingly involved with this Church of England school through pupils' visits to church for services, curriculum-based work, and through regular visits to school by the Revd. Phil White and others for Collective Worship, curricular work and a new after-school club.

Throughout most of this year the school has been without its head teacher, Ann Town, who has been absent because of recurring medical problems. Mrs Town has now decided to retire at the end of this term, by which time she will have completed 25 years in the role of head teacher. Governors have advertised and short listed candidates for the post, and interviews will take place in 2 weeks' time.

In addition to Mrs Town's absence, through the year there has been another long-term staff absence, but this has now been resolved with the member of staff resigning and a new member being appointed for September. In spite of these absences the high standard of education for the pupils has been maintained by the use of experienced supply staff and the flexible use of existing staff. I would like to thank all staff - teaching and non-teaching - for their hard work and professionalism during a difficult period for the school. I would like to thank particularly Mrs Louise Carpenter who has been acting head teacher for the period of Mrs Town's absence and has maintained the smooth running of the school.

Looking to the future the school is planning, along with the other schools within the Minster School's Family of Schools to join together in forming a Multi-Academy Trust which will enable all the schools within this group to work together more closely and gain the advantages of a larger organisation. Plans are well advanced for this move - although it is likely that pupils and parents will see little change.

One of the main problems facing the school - alongside the majority of state schools - is the question of funding. In spite of statements from central government that school funding is increasing, governors are struggling to set a budget for the new financial year without making cuts to our existing provision. The problem has not been helped by the two long-term absences referred to earlier. Our main aim in setting the budget is to maintain staffing levels as we believe that this is the way to sustain high educational standards and is what parents would wish.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Bleasby School Friends' Association which has raised an amazing sum of money - as it does each year - to provide the extras that the school needs to provide an even better facilities for the pupils' education.

My thanks too go to the parents for their support, the pupils for their friendliness energy, and to the governors for their continued hard work in supporting Bleasby School.