

## Mellers Primary School

### Governors' Impact Statement 2020/21

**Mellers is a unique and extraordinary school. The GB has a vision for exceptional progress for all children, irrespective of starting point, through inspirational teaching and leadership. Children will be enabled to be resilient learners, in a culture where there is no stereotyping of expectations, and the environment is safe and nurturing.**

The following is a statement by the Governors of Mellers Primary School showing the monitoring work that has been carried out by the board and the impact that the visits have had for the education of the pupils.

The academic year 2020 - 21 has yet again been an extraordinary one. After the previous year when we saw a large number of pupils being educated remotely we did not think it could happen again. However, early in September 2020 Mellers was the first school in the city needing to send children home because of an outbreak of Covid. Yet with Mellers immense fortitude and the outstanding help of the Local Authority we rode the storm. The year progressed and the need for sending children home continued and the online learning went from strength to strength. Engagement with learning during the upheaval was wonderful. Staff pulled together in an extraordinary manner to ensure that our pupils got the very best education and care. Monitoring of school continued by our external advisor and governors managed to continue their work.

The following is a list of some of the activities in which Governors have taken part during the period:

- Carry out Governor Monitoring week activities.
- Take part in the Headteacher annual review of performance
- Take part in the annual review of school with the Head and members of the SLT
- Speak in length with subject leads about their work and goals for the future
- Experience, first hand, online learning
- Talk with a group of parents about the challenges of home education
- Take part in a whole school review of phonics, guided reading and storytime
- Keep up to date with the latest safeguarding practices and undergone training by a national provider
- Supported the opening of the new library
- Supported the school to take on the focus provision for deaf children in the city
- Continued support for Nottingham Nursery School

The list is not exhaustive but serves to highlight the huge amount of work going on in school while many of the pupils were at home.

## **So where was the real impact of the work of the Governing Body?**

For the purposes of the 20/21 report I would like to highlight 3 main areas where I feel that the governor impact has been the greatest

1. The development of subject leadership in the school
2. The support for the school to incorporate the Nottingham City provision for deaf pupils
3. The development of the new school library
4. Ensuring that pupil and staff wellbeing is at the heart of the school

### Subject Leadership

In the academic year 2019/20 the primary curriculum underwent a massive review with school needing to reform their curriculum from a more holistic approach to a subject based approach – much like the secondary school model. This necessitated the appointing of talented and experienced teachers to lead subject areas, some of which they were previously unfamiliar with. Through our governor monitoring, despite lockdown and home learning, we have met with our subject leads to ensure that these people were being well supported in order to establish their subject areas and lead staff to teach a high quality curriculum effectively. Governors have invited the leads to speak at meetings to describe their work and discuss their ongoing plans. Leads have attended NST training and moderation and some have been invited to speak at local authority training to inspire young teachers. Governors are confident that we have a raft of middle leaders who are growing in confidence and being supported to deliver a high quality curriculum fit for the Mellers' pupils.

### Focus Provision for Nottingham City Deaf Provision at Mellers

Early in the academic year we were approached by the Special Needs Team at the local authority to consider integrating the city provision for deaf pupils into our school. Governors supported this wholeheartedly, recognising that to move the provision to Mellers would only enhance our inclusive ethos and bring enrichment and increased understanding of the needs of all pupils into the school. We worked alongside architects, surveyors, the team of teachers of the deaf, parents, pupils and the local authority to make this happen. It means that the provision is now ready to open at Mellers in September 2021, although, unfortunately, despite many hours of hard work and emails, the building will not be ready on time. However, as a governing body we feel proud to welcome the new pupils and staff to what will be a great addition to our school.

### School Library

About three years ago the governors spent time interviewing pupils and particularly those who were potentially capable of being our highest achievers. We gained much from this including their desire to have a proper library space. Space at Mellers has always been a challenge and since then we have returned to the notion of a library provision on many occasions. Finally, this academic year, governors were delighted to be able to allocate the funding, support with the finding of a designer and, through the school improvement process, give our backing to the staff leading the process. We are delighted that the new school library will be ready to open when the pupils return to school in September and look forward to seeing it flourish.

## Ensuring that pupil and staff wellbeing is at the heart of the school

In order to have a successful school the governors believe that staff and pupil wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do and it is always central to our discussions when considering the strategic developments at Mellers. Wellbeing is promoted throughout all committee and full Governing Body meetings. This also includes training for safeguarding in which all members of the full Governing Body have participated despite lockdown.

The Governing Body is divided into 3 working groups each monitoring a different area:

Pupil Progress

Pupils and Curriculum

Finance and General Purposes

Governors visit the school for many different reasons and in doing so monitoring of all areas of the work is an on - going process. We have a Governors' Blog which is on the school website and it is interesting to read about all the activities that are undertaken by Governors.

Below are the specific areas of the School Improvement Plan which the Governors have monitored last academic year and notes regarding the impact we believe our activities have had.

<b>Improvement Area</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Priority area 1: to ensure that a robust curriculum is in place, which fully reflects the Mellers aspirational vision for our community	Governors received feedback from the deep dive into Science	The Science curriculum is now being taught more consistently across the school
	Governors received feedback from SLT regarding the progress with establishing the curriculum in order to focus their questions in monitoring meetings with subject leads	Monitoring meetings are now more focussed. They are valued by subject leads
	Governors reported back their monitoring meetings to the FGB	Governors are informed about developments across the school and not just their own subject areas

<p>Priority area 2: to further embed reading as a strength of Mellers practice</p>	<p>Governors experienced online learning and received feedback from parents and pupils</p> <p>Governors received feedback from the Reading Recovery Team</p> <p>Governors joined the external Advisor for the reading review</p> <p>Governors supported the financing of the new school library</p>	<p>Governors had first-hand experience of online learning and were assured that it was of the best quality. Engagement figures with online learning supported this</p> <p>Governors were assured that although an expensive provision the programme had an impact on the progress of pupils and it contributed significantly to the success of reading at the school.</p> <p>The impact of the emphasis on reading is making a significant difference. It was endorsed by the advisor and we received areas for development.</p> <p>The library is created and set to be a significant learning hub in the school, which was the vision of the pupils.</p>
<p>Priority area 3: to ensure that every member of the Mellers community is aiming to be 'the best that they can be' within a culture which is positive, happy and respectful</p>	<p>Governors received a detailed briefing from staff leading the wellbeing agenda in school</p>	<p>Governors were assured that this priority area continues to be a key driver to children making progress in their academic work.</p>

	Governors supported the addition of the deaf provision to school	Mellers ethos of inclusivity continues to enhance the education and wellbeing of our pupils as well as those across the city.
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This is not an exhaustive report of what we feel that the governors have achieved in yet another disrupted year but it serves to give a flavour of our activities.

We have a governor blog on the website which we would urge you to read. The minutes of the meetings are also on the website. If you would like to speak to any of us about our work, or you would like to consider joining the governing body we would be delighted to hear from you and you can contact us through the school office.

Lesley Lyon

Chair of Governors

September 2021