

# LINDFIELD PRIMARY ACADEMY

## Governance Statement 2017/18

In September 2017 significant changes at governance level occurred.

The University of Brighton Academies Trust (UBAT) was formed following a merger between two other neighbouring Trusts (Hastings and Brighton). The University of Brighton began supporting schools in 2008 and it was one of the first multi-academy trusts sponsored by a University. UBAT now consists of a network of 15 Academies (both Primary & Secondary) spread across East and West Sussex all supporting each other. Lindfield Primary is one of them.

UBAT is managed by a Board of Trustees (BoT) which has appointed a team of officers responsible for the day to day running of the Trust. The Chief Executive is Dr John Smith who is also Head of School Education at the University of Brighton whilst the Chair, Dr Chris Pole, is also a Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University. Thus there are very close links between the University and UBAT.

The BoT are ultimately responsible for the educational and financial performance of all the Academies in UBAT and as such are the statutory governors of each Academy.

As part of the management structure the BoT has formed a series of committees each responsible for a specific function eg Educational Standards, Finance & Resources etc. Also reporting to the BoT are 15 Academy Local Boards – each Academy having its own Local Board. The Lindfield Local Board (LLB) came into being on the 1<sup>st</sup> September and it is made up of those individuals who previously operated as Governors.

The reason for the change in name is not simply cosmetic. On the changeover date new Terms of Reference (ToR) were implemented. Before 1<sup>st</sup> Sept the Local Governing Body had been responsible for all matters concerning Lindfield Primary Academy (LPA) ie Finance, Academic Performance, Health & Safety and so on. As the paid officials mentioned above also had responsibility for these areas, this situation led to much unnecessary duplication. The opportunity was taken therefore to re-define these responsibilities on the formation of the new governance structure.

The major responsibilities of the LLB are now:

- To help develop a vision and plot the strategic direction for LPA ensuring it complements the UBAT vision and values
- To maintain strong community links and effective communication with all stakeholders, including parents and carers
- To monitor pupil wellbeing, admissions, complaints and concerns

It is pleasing to note that a very good working relationship now exists between the Trusts' officials and the Local Board Members. The existing strong links with our major stakeholders, including our staff and the Parent Teachers Association, have been maintained.

On a very positive note it is equally pleasing to note that our academic performance over the 2016/17 period improved on the previous year. This improvement was across the board, Key Stages 1 and 2, but perhaps the greatest achievement was our KS1 Phonics results. This outstanding performance (96% above average) was recognised in a congratulatory letter received in November from the Minister for Schools.

In July 2017 a three year Strategic Plan was agreed by the then Governing Body and this is in the course of being implemented. It is to be reviewed in January 2018.

Local Board Members continue to visit classes regularly which helps gain a deeper understanding of how education is delivered at LPA, which in turn enables them to both support and challenge the Principal and his Senior Management Team. Each LLB Member is allocated a Year Group to observe and support. In addition to class visits LLB members attend a wide range of other activities, Open Days, Sporting & Cultural Events, Parent Consultation Evenings and so on.

LLB Members are also involved in staff recruitment, teaching and non-teaching.

Minutes of meetings, declarations of interest, attendance records of LLB Members and other information can be found under the Governance section of the Academy's website. Further information about UBAT can be found on its website: [www.brightonacademiustrust.org.uk](http://www.brightonacademiustrust.org.uk)