

Henry Chadwick Community Primary School

School Lane, Hill Ridware, Rugeley WS15 3QN
Tel: 01543 490354

Headteacher
Mrs V Barnes

Website: www.henrychadwick.staffs.sch.uk
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11th July 2024

Governors' Annual Report

As the newly appointed Chair of the Governors of Henry Chadwick Primary I hope to capture the events, actions, celebrations and outcomes of Henry Chadwick and governor engagement and challenge over the past academic year; the culmination being the school receiving a glowing report following the Ofsted inspection in April.

All five aspects of the inspection;

- Quality of Education
- Behaviour and Attitudes
- Personal Development
- Leadership and management
- Early Years provision

were judged to be **GOOD!** I know you have had access to the report and will appreciate the expertise, hard work, dedication and care shown by Mrs Barnes and the staff to achieve this. So as an introduction to this report I know you will join the governors in thanking everyone at school for this super achievement.

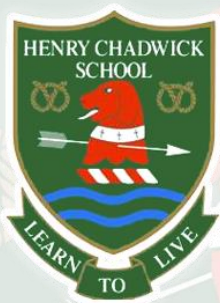
Primitas Learning Partnership

A significant event for Henry Chadwick this academic year was to formalise their partnership with neighbouring schools by joining Primitas Learning Partnership, a Multi Academy Trust working together with other primary and secondary schools in the locality.

This partnership has enriched and enhanced the work at Henry Chadwick through true partnership working which includes sharing expertise across the Trust, training opportunities for leaders and staff (including governors), curriculum development groups and access to resources and support. We believe that 'Together is Better' and any additional advice, support and collaboration will bring many benefits for the staff through this new venture.

This partnership does not detract from the individuality or characteristics of Henry Chadwick but certainly adds value to our work. You will not be surprised to learn that leaders and staff at Henry Chadwick have not only been a receiver of support but a provider too, giving additional opportunities for staff to share their experience and expertise. That is something to be proud of.

Every day counts..... Every minute matters.....



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Role of the Local Governing Body

The role of the local governing body, on behalf of the Trust, is to oversee the strategic direction of the school offering both support and challenge through the information provided at our half termly meetings and visits into school. Our aim is to improve on past best and our meetings focus on one important aspect – the children. That, of course, encompasses many facets including finance, health and safety, attendance, the learning environment and of course outcomes for **all** children here at Henry Chadwick.

Governors are volunteers and give of their own free time to exercise this role and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the governing body for the dedication to the role. We have staff and parental representation and encourage people from a variety of professions and backgrounds to join us so we can have balanced and inclusive discussions to ensure that all our decisions are the best ones and make a difference for our children.

Our performance was also reviewed during the inspection and their findings were:

Governors are not always fully informed about some aspects of school life, including how well pupils are achieving in some subjects. This means they are unable to question and sufficiently challenge the school. The school should ensure that governors receive training and have the information they need to check pupils are achieving equally well in all subjects.

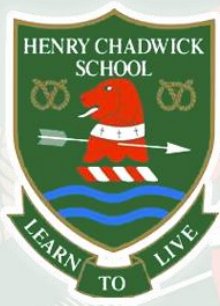
(Ofsted inspection report April 16th-17th 2024)

Governors, therefore, have a very clear indication of what needs to be done to improve and work has already begun to address this;

- Appointment of additional governors
- A robust self-review of performance has taken place, highlighting good practice and areas for development
- A skills audit to enable us to maximise and utilise the experience and expertise within the group
- Planned presentations from subject leaders
- Regular book reviews
- Continued development of governor engagement in the life of the school
- Engagement with other governors across the Trust to share good practice
- Training plan
- A strategic plan of governor development

During the course of the next academic year, we will provide an update on our work and progress to date.

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Challenges for 2024-2025

Schools, and particularly leaders and staff, are very apt at adapting to the frequent changes that take place in the educational landscape. These changes come with speed and teachers are to be congratulated on their resilience and determination whilst never losing sight of the moral purpose – to improve the outcomes and life chances of all the children in their care.

Small schools are jewels in the crown of education, a hub of their community, a caring family where everyone looks out for each other – staff and children alike.

It takes a village to raise a child

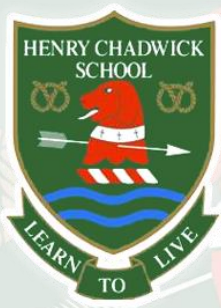
That said, small schools come with additional challenges. Staff have responsibilities for a number of subjects which increases workload, funding for schools is based on the number of children, access to resources is limited but the expectations are the same for all primary schools irrelevant of size. **Funding** has and will continue to be a major focus for us moving forward – a change in government will no doubt see changes but let's hope that education is the priority it deserves. Budget control is well managed at Henry Chadwick with Mrs Barnes and Mrs Jane carefully prioritising spending to meet the needs of the school. This will remain a key focus and challenge moving forward - overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent.

Governors would also like to thank the PFA, a group of dedicated parents who give up their time to raise funds for the school – their fundraising enables school to provide additional resources and activities for all the children, which they might not otherwise be able to do.

Assessing how the children are progressing in the foundation subjects at given points in the year will continue to be developed and refined and we will ensure that staff have the support and time to achieve this through working collaboratively across the Trust. This is a common thread in many schools and Mrs Barnes has already created a cross-school group to address this collectively to limit additional workload for staff.

Whilst not mentioned in the inspection report, and at a point of the year where it is a pleasing picture, **attendance** still remains a concern. It is appreciated that our children remain at home if they are poorly but we are experiencing an increase in absence during the summer term. This has been due to holidays being taken during term time. As parents you will know the primary stage of education are the formative years and extremely important. Lost learning is difficult to replace, the curriculum is planned and staged incrementally and absence can lead to concepts and learning being missed which impacts now and later. We appreciate that prices do escalate during school holidays but attendance is important and will be challenged appropriately.

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In conclusion, Ofsted shared;

Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school. They appreciate work that the school does in supporting their children academically and emotionally.

(Ofsted inspection report April 16th-17th 2024)

The primary partnership between home and school is paramount for success, thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Staff were very appreciative of parents' comments during the inspection and, indeed, the whole year! Thank you!

I look forward to meeting you in the future.

I do hope the sun shines for you over the summer break and you enjoy time together!

Yours sincerely,

Sue Wedgwood
Chair of Governors

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