

Governing Body Annual Report July 2022

Little Gaddesden C.of E. Primary School

A BIG BIG Thank you

Introduction

As I write this report, I reflect on all the events that have happened over the year and my theme for this year's report is definitely gratitude. Gratitude to Lorna as Headteacher for all she has done to lead the school, through not just the last year but since she joined as Head. Joining a school at the start of a global Pandemic was no easy task and Lorna has worked tirelessly to ensure wellbeing has been at the top of the agenda throughout. To all the staff that make Little Gaddesden School such an engaging and fun place for the children to learn and to grow, ensuring the facilities are in good condition and that the children have fabulous food to eat. Gratitude to the Friends of Little Gaddesden School, whose constant drive to creatively raise funds means that the children get to enjoy some of the best experiences and work with the latest technology, setting them up for success as they progress through the school. Gratitude for our amazing parents who help to make our school community great, and gratitude for the children who bring such energy and zest for life to school each day. Last but by no means least, gratitude for my fellow Governors who give up their time year in, year out to ensure the school is supported, guided and led.

The school's financial position is once again healthy as reflected in the summary on page 2. Alongside is a short reminder on how schools are funded and elements that can impact those funds.

Anne Heath

Chair of Governors

Funding Follows Pupils

All schools experience a certain amount of fluctuation in their pupil numbers within the year and from one year to the next. This can be for a number of reasons; e.g. as families relocate to a new area or perhaps opt for a different educational path for their children. Little Gaddesden School is no different to any other school in this respect. However, for small schools in particular, this can have a significant impact on their budgets, due to the way that “funding follows the child”. In very broad terms, Little Gaddesden School receives a “lump-sum” of around £200,000 each year. It also receives funding of about £3,000 for every pupil on roll in October. So, if we assume the school is full to capacity at 105 pupils, the pupil funding received is £315,000. Conversely, if total pupil numbers dip to 95, the pupil funding falls to £285,000. Overall, this is a difference of some £30,000, funding that could pay for a member of staff for the year. For any school, the ability to forecast pupil numbers for the year ahead is fundamental. We need to plan staffing effectively, and early information is the key. If, for any reason, you are thinking of changing school for your child, please do talk to Lorna Elkes, Headteacher as early as possible. It’s much easier to plan ahead on the basis of possible changes; the school can get in touch with pupils on its waiting list if sufficient notice is given.

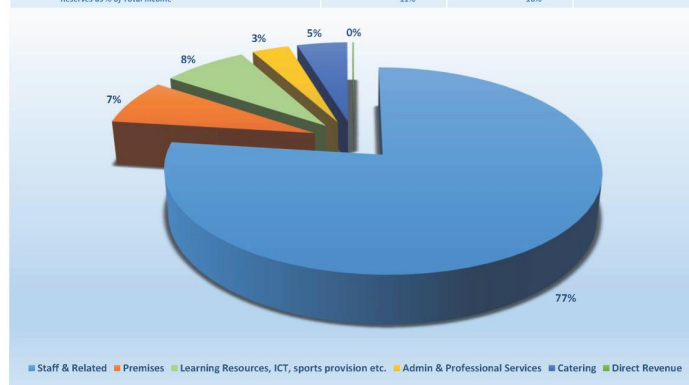
Overseeing Schools Finances

Schools are required to publish a summary of the year-end financial position. The figures for the end of the last financial year (2021/22) are summarized on the attached table and pie chart. As you will see this shows a marginal increase in staffing costs versus budget but overall the school’s finances remain in a healthy position.

Once again a huge thank you to all that support the school to raise additional funds - this past year that has enabled the children to have access to brand-new Chromebooks at a ratio of 1 : 2, use of a fabulous 17-seater minibus, funds ready to plough into an enhanced playground, new smart screens and stage lighting for the many productions the school puts on. Thank you!

2021-22 FINAL BUDGET POSITION

Budget Area	Budget 2021-22	Actual Spend 2021-22	% of total expenditure
Staff & Related	£443,021	£452,494	77%
Premises	£42,274	£43,675	7%
Learning Resources, ICT, sports provision etc.	£53,953	£44,516	8%
Comprising:			
Learning Resources	£16,071	£16,813	3%
ICT	£8,893	£9,063	2%
Professional Services (Curriculum)	£28,989	£18,640	3%
Admin & Professional Services	£18,036	£19,624	3%
Catering	£25,712	£26,586	5%
Direct Revenue	£0	£696	0%
Total Expenditure	£582,996	£587,591	100%
Revenue Income	£558,009	£588,533	
Committed Revenue Balances (includes unspent Sports Premium)	£23,876	£25,787	
Uncommitted Revenue Balances (Reserves)	£62,120	£61,151	
Reserves as % of Total Income	11%	10%	



A Look Back at 2021/2022

Autumn Term

September saw the school welcome 16 new pupils to reception and applications for the September 2022 intake are once again incredibly high which is as always very positive!

Highlights included:

Class 4 trip to Verulamium; Class 3 trip to RAF Hendon; The Big Draw; Class 1 Trip to Berkhamsted Library; Class 3 Singing at Great Gaddesden; Class 2 Great Fire of Little Gaddesden to replicate the Great Fire of London; Class 2 Trip to St Pauls Cathedral; Remembrance day service; Christmas Jumper Day; Santa Dash; Christmas Lunch in festive hats!

As the calendar year came to a close we saw the return of bubbles to reduce the spread of Covid-19, which meant postponing the visiting school panto, however the school's own production of Peter Pan went ahead but moved to an online showing, as did the end of term Christmas church service.

Spring Term

With Covid seeming to calm down, once again the school could be released from bubbles, a welcome return to being able to run whole-school activities.

Highlights included:

Class 3 Shakespeare Workshop; Re-arranged whole school Pantomime; World Book Day and Afternoon Tea; Wellbeing Visitor and Feelgood Week; Red Nose Day fundraiser; Class 2 trip to Kew Gardens; Class 2 Pirate Day; Class 2&3 Easter Trail and Easter End of term Service.

Summer Term

The school headed into the summer term having enjoyed two whole terms of open school, no closures due to Covid, and whilst disruption continues due to illness and viruses that had been somewhat subdued due to the pandemic, everyone is relieved that learning in school has managed to continue and that pupils have been able to take part in some very enjoyable activities.

Highlights include:

Class 3 & 4 trip to The Tempest; Jubilee Celebrations, fabulous artwork and summer fete; Class 4 week-long residential to The Isle of Wight; Class 2 welcomed ducklings; Art Week including Classes 2, 3 & 4 Trip to The National Gallery for 'Take One Picture'; Sports Day; Class 1 Canal Trip; Class 4 Victorian evening of entertainment; Choir performance to parents.

The term will end with the Year 6 Leavers' Service at the church on Wednesday 20th July.

Ofsted Update

Changes to the way schools are inspected by OFSTED continue and there is now a greater emphasis on how the curriculum for each subject is planned, delivered and assessed. It is widely expected that fewer schools will be rated as 'Outstanding' under the new framework and the outcomes of inspections carried out so far confirm this to be the case. You can find more information about the planned curriculum for each subject at Little Gaddesden School on the school's refreshed website.

Governor Update

School Governors form the largest volunteer force in the country, but it's not always apparent what the role involves. The detail may vary from one school to another, depending on its type and size, but schools have the following core roles in common;

- Making sure the school's vision is on the right track
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school
- Asking the Head searching questions about the school
- Ensuring the voices of stakeholders (parents, pupils and staff) are heard
- Ensuring Safeguarding and other statutory requirements are met

You can read more about what this means in practice at the end of this newsletter.

We welcomed two new Governors this year, Stuart Owen and Simon Emmett and new Associate Member Carol Duguid. Thank you for stepping up and we are thrilled to have you join us. Pippa Martin's term of office ended this year and we thank her for her contribution over the past four years. We also thanked Anne Heard for her services to Little Gaddesden School first as a Governor and then as an Associate Member for over 25 years! Anne has taken on a new role as a Community Ambassador, enabling her to remain an active presence in the school community, alleviating her of the responsibility that a Governor carries. Thank you Anne for all you have done and will continue to do!

We will be seeking nominations for a member of the parent body to join the GB as Parent Governor at the start of the Autumn term and would love to hear from you if you or someone you know may be interested in becoming a Governor at Little Gaddesden School. If you are interested please do reach out in the first instance to our Chair of Governors Anne Heath chair@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk or our Clerk Louise Farrow gov.clerk@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk.

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