



October 2018

Headteacher's Report to Governors

At Branton Primary School we are full of cheer!

Confident

Happy

Enlightened

Effective

Respectful

Our vision

'To nurture and value everyone, while guiding, enlightening and developing a lifelong love of learning.'

Overview

Up until June we were predicting an increase in pupil numbers, indeed we had families applying for their children to attend Branton! Our prediction was that our pupil numbers in main school would be around the 30 mark, which was excellent.

However the end of the school year proved to be very challenging for everyone. For whatever reason several parents made the choice to move their children away from Branton, so disappointing for the whole school team who have put their heart and soul into building our school into a viable 'Primary'. This seemed to have a knock on effect on other families and so we now stand at 16 on roll (with 15 in school).

As you can imagine this has had a financial impact and has necessitated changes immediately, verbal feedback will be given at the governor meeting on Tuesday 9th October.

So we have started the new school year fewer in numbers than before, however we are determined to move forward positively and make the very best experiences for all the children we have in school. We met as a team at the beginning of the school year to 'reboot' and draft our School Development Plan for the new academic year, and very much look to the future and to rebuilding our successful and very individual school!

Attendance

	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term		Whole Year
2014-15	95.5%	97.2%	95.4%		96.2%
2015-16	97.9%	96.4%	94.9%		95.7%
2016-17	95.8%	95.9%	98.5%		
2017-18	95.8%	95.6%			

From the attendance figures you will see that our attendance for the academic year 2017-18 was the poorest figure we have had for a few years. There were several requests for holidays in term time, which has impacted on this overall figure.

Behaviour / discipline / exclusion information

As a school we have fulfilled our statutory responsibility to children who have been in care, children referred to as Looked After Children (LAC) or post LAC.

For Governor Information and for future reference, schools have a statutory responsibility to admit and try to meet the needs of any children who are LAC or Post LAC. The most recent guidance (which is mostly the same as earlier guidance) published in 2018 states -

"Regulations made under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 require admission authorities for maintained schools to give Looked after children the highest priority in their admission arrangements. These provisions ensure that looked after and previously looked after children obtain a place at their preferred schools. Such children **must** take precedence over those on a waiting list and **cannot** be refused a place because of having challenging behaviour." (The Designated teacher for Looked after and previously looked after children – Statutory Guidance on their roles and responsibilities, Department for Education February 2018)

At Branton we have had applications over recent years to admit post LAC children, with challenging behaviour and additional needs. Following statutory guidance we have admitted the children to our school. To help the school meet the needs of these pupils, we applied for additional funding, which in turn allowed us to appoint additional staff. The wider impact of these appointments was to the benefit of all the children in school, not only those in receipt of the funding.

In the time the children were in school we had two exclusions. One in the summer term of 2017, and another in the summer term of 2018. As a school we supported these children and attempted to meet their needs as best as we could. As a school team I think we all agree that the impact of our support had a significant and beneficial effect on all the children and all made steps forward academically and socially.

Equalities information

Age

Branton School has an intake number of 6 pupils in each year group. The largest year groups for the academic year 2017-18 was Years Four (5 children). In a school of 21 full time pupils there was an equal gender split of 11 girls and 10 boys.

In our new academic year of 2018-19 we have 16 pupils on our school roll, 9 girls and 7 boys, in years reception, years 1, 2 and 3. We have no pupils in years 4, 5 or 6 this year.

There are 11 pupils currently accessing nursery provision, in our 2 year old specific sessions and our general nursery sessions, which operate for 10 sessions each week, up to 30 hours.

The staff profile of 9 is made up 7 members of staff in the 45 – 60 age group with 1 member of staff in the 30-45 age group and 1 in the 17-30 age group. The gender split is 8 female to 1 male.

Disability.

There are no pupils on roll with physical disability, hearing or visual impairment. An accessible disabled toilet is available for pupils with short term medical needs. There is disabled access to all parts of the building. There are no pupils on role whose long term health issues have a significant impact on attendance. There are no disabled members of staff.

Gender reassignment

No data is collated by the school about gender reassignment and the pupil or staff population.

Race.

The prevalent ethnicity is White British. The school has annually recorded and reported no racist incidents to the Local Authority.

Religion or belief.

The school does not record information about religion.

When necessary the Headteacher's office will be made available as a prayer room to Muslim children during Ramadan and Eid.

The school's dress code is culturally sensitive towards school uniform in accordance with DfE guidance. Religious leaders do play a part in school life, with visits from Methodist and Church of England representatives and school visits to Christian, Muslim and Hindu places of worship.

Gender

There is little difference in rates of individual progress between the genders over the years, and this year has been no different to that trend. The sex of children is not identified in the Key Stage analysis charts. In the Early Years we have seen boys being less 'school ready' than the girls over the last couple of years; however this tends to even out before the end of the key stage. Writing for boys is a focus in our early Years working groups and we are setting up activities to encourage early writing skills.

Sexual orientation

No data about sexual orientation of pupils, parents or staff is collected or held by the school. Were it to be communicated to the school regarding a pupil, it would be recorded in the child's confidential file. The disabled staff toilet is available for any individual, pupil or adult, who would prefer not to use the single sex toilets.

Marriage and civil partnership

When information about changes in marital status or home circumstances is communicated to the school, it is recorded in the pupil's confidential file and on the Office contact list. No data is collated by the school about staff or parents marital status, apart from names given for home contact and information about whether letters home or reports are to be duplicated and sent to two addresses. We can offer separate appointments for parents if we are informed of the need.

Pregnancy and maternity

Should any member of staff require maternity leave there are policies in place adopting the County Council guidelines. The school has developed flexible policies with regard to returning to work and flexible arrangements regarding emergencies relating to children, childcare and parenting. The school currently has one member of the school team on maternity leave.

Vulnerable groups

In 2017-18 we had four pupils with an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan, previously known as a Statement for SEN) who were also in receipt of additional 'Element 3' funding. We also had two further pupils who were listed as being SEN Support. We now have no pupils on roll with EHCPs and one who is listed as SEN Support with a specific learning difficulty.

In 2017-18 we had three post LAC children on roll, which has now reduced to one.

We had five pupils attracting different levels of Pupil Premium in 2017-18 which has reduced to one.

In 2017-18 we had two pupils with English as an additional language (EAL).

Bullying and discrimination

The school has successfully achieved the Anti- Bullying Accreditation, which is still current. The school has no reported incidents of bullying. Pupils know that if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe they can call an immediate School Council meeting to discuss their worries. The school actively promotes emotional literacy; pupils can self-register on a themed chart to record how they are feeling. This is closely monitored throughout the day by staff and pupils. All pupils say that they feel safe in school.

Complaints information

A verbal update will be given at the October meeting.

Home / community links

In the summer term the following events took place –

Easter Service
Musical Roots at Alnwick Gardens
Music afternoon
Charity Shop
Air Ambulance bag collection
End of year Celebration Assembly

Admissions / Leavers destinations

One pupil is currently being supported by EOTAS and has not been in school since mid June, and is awaiting a place at a specialist setting.

In July we had one new admission join us into Year 1, the family moving into the area and not being able to be accommodated at their catchment school.

Two pupils left to be electively home educated in early July.

At the end of the school year we had three pupils leave to go to Glendale Middle School.

A further nine pupils left our school and nursery and moved to Whittingham Primary School at the end of the school year.

One pupil left us in April and one in July to move to private education.

Performance management information

All staff underwent performance management mid-year reviews in March with lesson observations and book scrutinies being carried out. Training has been highlighted linked to our School Development plan for various members of staff, and budgetary provision has been made to ensure the appropriate training takes place.

Pay progression information

All staff have successfully completed their appraisal cycle with new targets being set and pay progressions being awarded as appropriate.

Staff absence data

No significant staff absence recorded.

Staffing information

A verbal update will be given at the meeting in October

Governor Information

A verbal update will be given at the meeting in October.

Discipline / Grievance issues

There have been no disciplinary or grievance issues.

Financial information

A verbal update will be given at the meeting in October.

CPD & School visit details

School visits

Children's Countryside Day

Beadnell Beach

Roots and Shoots, at Alnwick Gardens (Y1-6)

A variety of sporting events for our KS2 children.

Visitors to school

Steve the Carver

Grant Watson Tennis Coach, holiday activity sessions

Ryan Jobson – Trident Soccer

Julie Wilson ASD Specialist Teacher

Angie Appleby Specialist Behaviour Teacher

Margaret Shahin Specialist Literacy Teacher

Hannah Dunn Portage Worker

Lance Hardy Educational Psychologist

Jen Harris, NCC ICT consultant

Geoff Love, School Improvement Partner

David Street and Dave Cookson NCC Commissioners

CPD

All teaching and support staff attended training on

ADHD by Angie Appleby

ASD by Julie Wilson

Dyslexia By Margaret Shahin

School360 by Jen Harris

Miss R Plunkett also commenced her National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership

Premises / building / health & safety issues

One of our governors has been persistent and at last we have some boiler news! The NCC representative emailed on 2nd October to confirm that NCC are looking to replace our boiler in the next phase of this year's school capital works programme.

There were complications with regard to the electricity fuse box which was to necessitate our power supplier to make changes to our meter with regard to the installation of a new cooker for

our school kitchen. Since we have returned to school a new cooker has become available which means we do not need to make those changes. We have booked delivery and installation of the new cooker for 29th October!

We made several plans to make changes to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers that we had been expecting this term. Although we had a quote to partition Class two and the central area, we decided not to pursue this when it became obvious that our numbers were to be lower, and we are now pleased we didn't as we are making better use of the space for the pupils we have on roll currently. Similarly for the Pod, it is now a space we no longer need and we have reorganised internally as we have the space currently, although ground works have been completed. We will explore possibilities for this space over the coming months.

And finally

Thank you all for your fabulous, continued support, which is greatly appreciated by the whole team at Branton and Breamish.

We know that you all have your own lives and appreciate you having time for our school and its community. School Governors are hugely undervalued, and for a voluntary role, it has such accountability and responsibility! So 'Thank You' all!

Zoë Ryan
Headteacher

October 2018

Appendix (to be given out at the meeting on 9th October)

Appendix 1 – Pupil Progress report Sept 2018

Appendix 2 – School Improvement Partner Report June 2018