

Beecroft Primary School

Governors' Report To Parents 2023

What do governors do?

Governors offer strategic guidance, rather than getting involved in the operational aspects of a school. This involves:

- Working with other board members to plan the school's strategic direction.
- Overseeing the school's financial performance, ensuring money is well-spent.
- Holding the headteacher or school leadership to account.

A governor's relationship with the school's leadership team involves challenging existing processes to drive school improvement. Governors usually attend around six meetings per year and at Beecroft have the opportunity to talk to the school council and visit classrooms so that the detail at meetings can be put into context.

Governors' Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to thank the Headteacher, leadership team, staff, parents and pupils for all the hard work that ensures Beecroft Primary School is an exceptionally good place to learn. We are all so proud of our school as it always strives to be the best it can be. Equally, it wants all pupils to have the opportunity for arts – music, drama and dance and the full range of sport. Testament to this is the music medal awards and the National Artsmark gold achieved in October 2022. Equally, National Sports mark gold was achieved in 2023. Wellbeing of pupils is a priority, and the introduction of a Play Therapist has started valuable work with families and groups of pupils in school. This will be developed into 2023-2024. Beecroft Primary School has the Healthy Schools Award and Mind mate Friendly Award (2022)

This report and the accompanying curriculum booklet provides a rich picture of what is happening in our school.

A recent (March 2023) Local Authority Inspection is glowing,

“There are exceptional leaders in Beecroft, they are focussed on their ambition for **all** children and ensure that all staff receive highly effective professional development. Leaders have invested in a coaching and mentoring model that supports teachers subject, pedagogical, knowledge and content so that it constantly builds up over time.” (March 2023 Sam Golia Senior School Improvement partner.)

Steve Harris (Chair of Governors)

Activity of Governing Body Over The Year 2022-2023

- Approval of policies written by the school and on the web-site.
- Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs Returns and Monitoring: Safeguarding Governor.
- Visits to Family Assembly. (There is always a governor at these assemblies)
- Monitoring of the standards and achievements of school: In meetings and visits to school which includes visiting classrooms, talking to the school council (Without the Headteacher and school leaders)
- Regular Resource Sub-Committee Meetings where reports are presented from the Headteacher to show how money is spent, The governors approve and challenge financial decisions.
- Attendance at Child Protection Training.
- Health and safety checks
- Headteacher Performance Management with a senior School Improvement Officer.
- Attendance at formal meetings where the headteacher presents reports about the school and says what is being done.

Highlights of the Year 2022-2023.

Friends At Beecroft (FAB)

Comment From Natasha Hamlet: (Chairperson and Coordinator)

"We're very pleased to have our Friends At Beecroft and parent community back up and running this school year.

Following many changes after lockdown, we have established lots of new positive ways to collaborate and communicate effectively - between both school and our parent volunteers. Providing a great sense of community spirit at Beecroft, there is something for everyone to feel a part of and enjoy together.

From our monthly family assemblies with refreshments served by parent helpers, coffee mornings to catch up and discuss fundraising ideas, baking and treat sales, seasonal raffles and prizes, our FAB newsletters and the revival of our annual summer fair. We are very proud of all our FAB achievements, parents, children and school."

In The Community

Money raising at Harvest for St George's Crypt

Children In Need, earthquake disaster appeal.

Arts Trail

Kirkstall Festival: All pupils, parents and teachers participate.

Headteacher: National Leader of Education (NLE)

Miss Turner has been a National Leader of education since 2012, working with other Headteachers across the country to support school improvement. This Department For Education position had to be re-applied for and assessed. Miss Turner passed the assessments and was designated as an NLE again in December 2022.

The training as an NLE and work with other primary schools to help them improve is very beneficial to Beecroft.

National Awards Achieved 2022-2023

Sportsmark Gold 2023

Artsmark Silver and Gold Autumn 2022

Active Schools 2022

Healthy Schools Award and Mind Mate Friendly March 2022

Personal Development of Children

The school has Healthy Schools Awards and all children have weekly personal and social education and mind-mate. The latter is about pupils' emotional and social development. Bespoke work is in place through our play therapist who does family work, 1:1 work and small group therapy on issues like anger, resilience. There are ample opportunities for pupils to have a 'voice' in school through school council, sports leadership, arts council, mentors, librarians, running clubs by the pupils themselves. The wealth of clubs are open to all and actively encouraged also contribute to personal development.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

There are a wealth of clubs run by the teachers and Headteacher which can be enjoyed at lunchtime and after school. These are free to pupils.

All children attend at least one.

KS1

Reading, Arts & Crafts, Dance

Choir Spanish

Stretch & Relaxation, Wellbeing,

Sports Leaders

KS2

Reading Girls Football, Netball, DT, Choir

Boys Football, First Aid, Spanish, Dance,

Arts Council, Drama, Sports Leaders

Concerts

The Pied Piper: Drama Club and Years 2-6

Nativity Reception and Year 1

Music medals

Music Medals (Achieved July 2022 55 medals id the highest number in one year.)

	Copper (Level 1)	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Recorder	11	11	1	1
Flute	7	0	11	0
Violin	5	4	4	0
Total	23	15	16	1
Total all 55				

ABRSM Graded Music Examinations	ABRSM Music Medals (5 levels)	Curriculum, GCSE etc
(Pre-grade 1)	Copper	
(Grade 1)	Bronze, Silver	
(Grades 2-3)	Silver, Gold	(GCSE)
(Grades 4-5)	Platinum	(GCSE A-C)

The voice of pupils is important and the school council (pupil council) meet regularly to aid in decision making and to bring class suggestions. School Council is also an important voice in safeguarding and a further place to discuss the school TELL posters. Each class has a 'suggestion' box and a 'worry' box. (British values – the rule of law and democracy)

Pupils' are very proud of their school and work with the staff as a unified team.

Pupil Mentors: Apply and interviewed to support a child in school with reading and playtimes.

Leaders P.E. work with other pupils at playtime and lunchtime.

Arts Council: Group of pupils who access and plan the arts.

A further £16000 has been spent this year to provide:

- 16 new ipads in Year 1 – used for phonics, reading and computing
- 16 new ipads in Reception – used for phonics and early reading
- A set of 16 VR headsets in key stage 2 - To further develop the computing curriculum where pupils are now coding their own virtual worlds and games. We are one of the first schools in Leeds to do this.

To help children in Year 6 with their studies all pupils were loaned a school chromebook for the year, so that they could access the internet at home to help with their revision and homework - something that all children found really useful.

Online safety continues to be at the heart of everything we do in computing with a different focus each half term e.g. Year 6 have just finished designing and coding their own apps about social media and its impact on young people's mental health

PE and Sports

Beecroft Primary School's ethos promotes healthy physical and mental wellbeing by providing a safe and stimulating environment. We have continued to try and maximise pupils' participation in physical activity using the Sports Premium Funding, by providing high quality PE, a full programme of free extra-curricular clubs, half termly playground challenges and increased participation in intra/inter school competition through year group trips and extra-curricular games.

Highlights for our PE in 2022/23 All pupils take part in 2 hours of PE a week or 1 hour of PE and 1 hour of swimming taught by our specialist PE teacher.

- All children in KS2 now take part in at least one extra-curricular activity.
- Half termly whole school challenges have been introduced at breaks/dinner times to encourage children to be more active and ensure they have at least 30-mins of physical activity each day.
- These are led by our Young leaders who are trained in sports leadership each Thursday. There are now 14 young leaders in Key Stage 1 and 27 Young leaders in Key Stage 2. Their pupil voice decides which games and activity children do at playtimes.
- Year 6 (for the second year running) have an 11 week swimming booster in the summer term to ensure all children can swim 25m upon leaving school.

Sports Trips:

To further children's experience of different sports and physical activity, we have introduced more sports trips:

- Year 3 - participated in Leeds Rhinos Cheerleading. This included a performance to other schools.
- Year 2EE - Leeds Gymnastics. This included a performance to other schools.
- Year 2SC - World Cup Football.
- Year 5 – The Brownlee Triathlon
- Dance club – Dance Spectacular (23rd June 2023)
- Year 6 – Junior Warrior (30th June 2023)
- Year 1 – Mini Tennis (6th July 2023)

Inter-School Competition

Inter school competition has continued with our football teams competing in regional competitions

U10s football team (16 pupils)- Finished 4th in the Northern League

U11s Football – (14) pupils - The team finished second this year in their league and were top goal scorers in their league with 28 goals.

U11/10s girls' football team (27 pupils) – all have been involved in friendly matches against other schools and cup competitions at Goals.

External Awards

In 2022 Beecroft Achieved both:

- The Gold Healthy Schools Award in April 2022
- The School Games Gold Mark July 2022 (current School Games Mark application is in process for 2023).

Educational Visits and Visitors to School By Subject 2022-2023. Trips and Visits underpin work in class.

	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Reception</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Science	<u>Understanding of the world</u>	<u>Understanding of the world</u>		Lotherton Hall Kirkstall Valley Farm
Geography	Ambulance Visit Dentist Visit Police Visit	Ambulance Visit Parents and Babies Visit Local Area Walk	Local Area Walk	Local Area Walk
History				Kirkstall Abbey
PSHE/ Citizenship			Author Visit	Author Visit Kirkstall Valley Farm
PE			Tennis	Gymnastics Football Bikeability/ Learn to Ride
Art				

	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
Science			Nell Bank (residential)	Birds of Prey Centre
Geography	Morrisons	River Aire Malham (residential)	Scarborough	The Deep Castleton (residential)
History	Saltaire Otley	Ancient Greeks (Leeds City Museum) Romans (Leeds City Museum) Kirkstall Abbey	Armley Mills	
PSHE/ Citizenship		Inner West Youth Summit Malham (residential)	Inner West Youth Summit Nell Bank (residential)	Castleton (residential)
PE	Swimming (weekly) Dance Football	Boys Football	Boys Football Girls Football Triathlon	Boys Football Girls Football Swimming (weekly) Junior Warrior Bikeability
Art		Yorkshire Sculpture Park		

Using Finances Wisely

One of Beecroft's strengths is the careful use and allocation of finances to get the most out of every penny that is allocated to the school.

One of the unusual and strong features of the school is that there are no teachers, including the Headteacher, who do not have a teaching responsibility. Whilst this increases the work-load, it does mean that there is an authentic model of high quality teaching from all the leaders.

Money is then freed up to be used in creative and enhancing ways as in employing a play therapist, a pianist, additional teaching support for design technology and reading and maths support.

Play Therapy

11 pupils and families have benefited from a specialist play therapist employed for 1.5 days a week. This will continue in 2023-2024 (Cost £10,000)

Buildings Upgrades and Painting Programme (£14,000)

Over 29 years Beecroft has embarked on a full building upgrade with year-on-year building projects, which have been organised by the Headteacher working with an independent architect. Our beautiful library is one such project.

This year the footpath, at the front of school, has been upgraded with a ramp to After School Club and the rear playground.

Every year a painting programme ensures that the school remains, "A beautiful place."

The building work is paid from the school budget.

Upgrade of Computing Equipment

Computing

We are passionate about the teaching of computing at Beecroft and by careful planning of the budget, ensure that we have up to date equipment/infra structure in place to enhance this.

Between 2022 and 2023 we invested £35,000 to ensure that pupils have the best hardware to practise their computing skills in weekly lessons.

Year 1 and 2 A class set of 32 laptops.

Year 3 and 5 A class set of 32 laptops (new)

Year 4KW/RP A class set of 32 laptops.

Year 6 A class set of 32 laptops(new)

Reports About Beecroft From Leeds City Council Healthy Schools Award and Monitoring By School Improvement Advisors who check on all schools in Leeds

"This school is very much about everyone and is very pupil-focused and inclusive. The learning environment promotes healthy living and wellbeing, evident through the beautifully presented physical and emotional health messages and displays that are visible throughout the school.

Everyone feels safe, cares for each other and is very friendly. The parents I spoke to could not praise the school highly enough. The school is highly inclusive of everyone.”

“The school is a very strong advocate for the Healthy Schools Award. It is evident that the school invests much in health and wellbeing and that the Healthy Schools programme has a very high profile. All staff are highly motivated to raise aspirations and improve the health and wellbeing of all pupils. This is evident through all aspects of the school and everyone I met shared passionately how they contribute to this.”

“All pupils I met were happy, confident, articulate, engaged, polite and friendly and demonstrated an excellent knowledge of health and wellbeing.” Gill Mullens Healthy Schools Coordinator, Leeds City Council

“Children have high levels of respect across the school, and they play a pivotal role in creating a valued and celebrated school environment. “

“The children have highly positive attitudes towards their learning and demonstrate a sense of pride when they talk about what they have previously learnt. Children were able to talk about their learning from the displays that showcase exceptional outcomes across a range of subjects.

Learning behaviours across the school are exemplary and there were no low-level behaviours evident across the day. During lesson, children are respectful of others and contribute effectively across the lessons. When children were engaged in the learning, children demonstrated high levels of engagement and a commitment to their learning – children were not distracted and did not engage in any unwanted behaviours.” (Sam Golia School Improvement Advisor Leeds Education March 2023)