

InTouch

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

STOP PRESS...

- We are now at full capacity! Welcome to Jamie Sutterby who has joined Pirton School governing body this month as a Local Authority Governor.

School dashboard data

OFSTED has recently published on their website some basic attainment and progress data for all schools. This is aimed at giving parents and governors a broad idea of where their school sits compared to others nationally.

This data can be found at

<http://dashboard.ofsted.gov.uk/>

While these figures are correct, they are also published without any local context as OFSTED has grouped 'similar' schools according to prior attainment rather than cohort size, pupil mix and mobility etc. So we thought it would be useful to give the figures some context here:

- Because of the small number of pupils at Pirton School, in the Key Stage 1 (KS1) cohort one child represents 6.6% and in the Key Stage 2 (KS2) cohort one child represents 4.8%. So, for example, a decrease of five percentage points in writing since 2011 represents around one child not achieving the expected level.
- In the KS1 cohort (where one child represents 6.6%), seven out of the total of 15 pupils have a Special Educational Needs (SEN). This is not taken into account in the OFSTED figures.

- Pupil mobility is also not taken into account, especially when measuring progress between the KS1 and KS2 cohorts. At Pirton only 17 out of 21 pupils were fully schooled at Pirton. When one child represents 4.8% this can have a big impact on the statistics.

We hope that this information gives you some context. We are very proud of the good progress that children at Pirton make and it goes without saying that the staff and governors are constantly working hard to make sure that our children achieve and progress to the best of their capability.

If you would like the opportunity to discuss the School Data Dashboard, or any other aspects of school data in more detail, Mrs Houghton would be most happy to meet with you to do so.

Pupil progress data

On 1 March the Head and Assistant Head teachers, along with the Chair of Governors met again with Bob Hopcraft, the school improvement partner, to assess the most recent pupil progress data and make sure that the school is on track to meet its targets set for this academic year.

He found that children at Pirton are making good progress right across the school. Teaching is a mixture of good and outstanding and as a result attainment is high and children are aware of their targets and what they need to achieve to make progress. There is a positive attitude to learning across

the school and consistency in managing challenging behaviour has improved over time. Leadership is strong and ensures a 'vibrant and effective curriculum'.

Parent and school communication

Last term many of you will have been asked by staff for your opinion on parent/school communication. Your feedback - good or bad - is very important to us. Some of this feedback has already been acted upon. We will continue to ask for your views in various ways over the next term and introducing new ways for you to feel involved with the school.

PROFILE

Jamie Sutterby (Local Authority Governor)

Occupation: Programme manager at Hertfordshire County Council. I work on all sorts of types of projects and programmes, most of which are aimed at saving money and improve efficiency.

Family: I have just bought a house in Hitchin with my fiancée, to whom I am getting married in August. It is just the two of us and our cat, Catface.

Reasons for joining the Governing Body: Because I want to do something worthwhile with my spare time - and nothing is more worthwhile than contributing to an organisation that helps to shape children's lives, and because I hope that I can contribute in a positive way to the school.

Did you know? I am a keen amateur musician and I play guitar in a couple of bands, one of which gigs regularly around Hertford.



Contact Us

The best way to contact us is via our email address:

governor@pirton.herts.sch.uk

We welcome your comments and suggestions, including on:

- ideas for improving how governors and the school communicate with parents
- the aims and objectives of the school
- targets that have been set to achieve these
- the school's budget
- the content of this and future newsletters