



The Alderman Jacobs Primary School (Academy Trust) Governing Body received an external review of governance by the Area Senior Adviser and Governance Adviser from Cambridgeshire County Council on Thursday 28 January 2016. The following is from the review report.

### **Strengths noted during the review:**

- Governors are very supportive of the school and want it to improve.
- The chair of governors is very knowledgeable and very committed to her role. She took action on becoming chair by writing to governors about what was expected of a governor at the school.
- Governors want to take advice and access the support that is offered by the LA through the review
- The headteacher's report uses the school priorities as its main headings and this makes the monitoring information provided very accessible for governors.
- The agenda reminds governors to come to the meeting prepared having read all the supporting papers. This message is very prominent as it is in a red font.
- The governing body is providing more challenge, and this is easily identifiable by being in a blue font in the minutes. The level of questioning is the best evidence in the minutes of the achievement committee.
- Meetings have been specifically planned to happen after the school has completed data collection on pupil performance. This means the most up to date information will be available for governors.
- The governing body has chosen to have an external adviser to support them with the performance management review of the headteacher.
- The governing body is supported by a competent clerk, who attends training and has implemented best practice from those training sessions. She has ensured that the records are well kept and in good order.
- The governing body holds two in-house training sessions per year.
- Governors have accessed relevant training courses and have fed back from sessions attended.

### **Areas for development**

- While the governing body has a code of conduct, it has not agreed minimum expectations about what a governor of the school is required to undertake.
- The level of questioning and challenge is developing but could be developed further particularly at full governing body meetings.

- Currently the meetings are set to ensure they follow the collection of pupils' performance information and this alignment of the work of the governing body to the school's improvement cycle could be extended to include governor monitoring visits.
- Governing body minutes should be made available on the school website.
- Governors had a misunderstanding that informal meetings could take place happen, but for accountability of a publicly funded service, all meetings have to be properly constituted and have an agenda and minutes.
- The governing body has had training on its role, and this needs to continue to consolidate all governors understanding and improve their effectiveness.