



# Great Denham Primary School & Family Learning Centre

## Governor's Report to Parents - School Year 2014-15

### Our School Aims and Values

Our aim for Great Denham Primary School is to ensure that our children are prepared for and enjoy their journey through these formative years of their education.

This is underpinned by our 6 values carefully chosen from the Olympic 2012 values. (The year the school opened) They are as follows:

**Friendship: Courage: Respect: Excellence: Equality: Determination:**

At the centre of our vision for the school are children with a deep and active engagement in their own learning, who are nurtured within a school that is warm and secure but also vibrant, exciting and fun. Key features of our vision for our school are the diversity of four separate 'schools-within-schools,' mixed age teaching, peer to peer learning and the flexible and creative use of space and time including the 'campus as classroom.' Through the development of a community cafe and family learning space we hope to develop a full and active relationship with parents and the community.

### School Characteristics

Characteristic	National	Great Denham
Number on Roll (excluding nursery)	263	345
% Free School Meal Eligibility	26%	25%
% From Minority Ethnic Groups	27%	40.3%
Deprivation Indicator	0.24	0.13

No on Roll	Nursery 1	Nursery 2	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
394	10	39	75	60	60	45	45	31	29

## How do school leaders and Governors promote school improvement?

We have the children's safety, welfare and learning at the forefront of all decision-making. The creative curriculum and immersive learning is a key and distinctive aspect of our school. Our senior leadership team (SLT) are constantly reviewing what they do in the school to further improve successful pupil outcomes. To help with this the Governors have created 4 priority teams which visit and audit the performance of the school across 4 key Ofsted inspection areas:

### **ACHIEVEMENT OF PUPILS: QUALITY OF TEACHING: SAFETY & BEHAVIOUR: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT.**

Each team produces a report of their observations and this is tabled for discussion at governing body meetings. The SLT are challenged with the findings and any observations that can be used to improve what the school does are adopted into the school improvement plan (SIP). We have 5 parent governors who sit on the governing body to ensure parents views and perspectives are fully accounted for. From the main governing body of 12 each member is also part of one or more of the following;

- **Curriculum Committee** – to constantly ensure all aspects of the children's learning is at the forefront of all we do.
- **Business Committee** – to look at aspect of the running of the school other than educating our children.
- **Finance Committee** – takes an in depth look at the costs of running the school, budgets and funding.
- **Strategy Committee** – this is a small team which look at the longer range aspects of the schools needs and how central and local government changes and initiatives may impact the school.

## What have been our successes this year?

In 2013 we had our first Ofsted inspection. Most will know that the school received a Good rating with outstanding features, including the behavior and safety of children. Some areas were marked out as "could be doing better" the SLT and governors have used these observations and worked on making more of the teaching outstanding. We are improving the teaching by ensuring less experienced teachers have more opportunities to learn from outstanding practice.

Other successes have been our second residential visit to Hilltops in Norfolk which the children enjoyed immensely and learned such a lot from. Our year 1 children have been working to the new National Curriculum with 75% working to or above national standards in reading 62% in writing and 62% in maths. Also pleasing to see is that within these figures children working above National standards (exceeding national expectations - mastery) are 30% in reading 12% in writing and a very creditable 28% in maths. As our children develop through their key stages using the new National Curriculum we will be challenging to ensure these indications of success are maintained.

## What are the Key Stages?

The National Curriculum is divided into four Key Stages that children are taken through during their school life. For example, Key Stage 1 is taught during Years 1 and 2 of primary school. Targets defined in the National Curriculum are assessed at the end of each Key Stage.

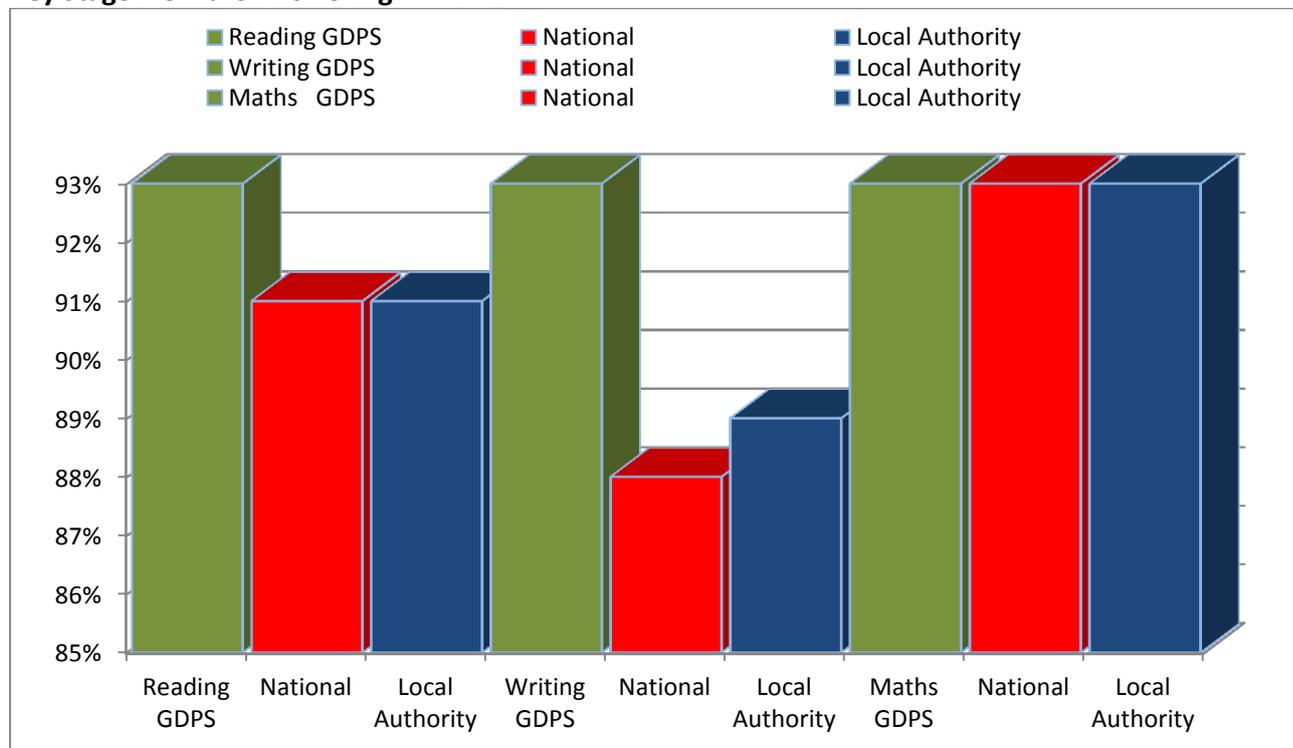
<b>Key Stage 1</b>	<b>Ages 5 – 7</b>	<b>Years 1 and 2</b>
<b>Key Stage 2</b>	<b>Ages 7 – 11</b>	<b>Years 3, 4, 5 and 6</b>
<b>Key Stage 3</b>	<b>Ages 11 – 14</b>	<b>Years 7, 8 and 9</b>
<b>Key Stage 4</b>	<b>Ages 14 – 16</b>	<b>Years 10 and 11</b>

## What are our results in the Key Stages & Early Years Foundation Stage?

Major Attainment Indicators %					
EYFS pupils ( 75) national figures in brackets	All	FSM Free school meals	EAL English as additional Language	Boys	Girls
% EYFS Good level of development	80.8% (60%)	68.8% (45%)	70.1% (53%)	76.2% (52%)	90.3% (69%)

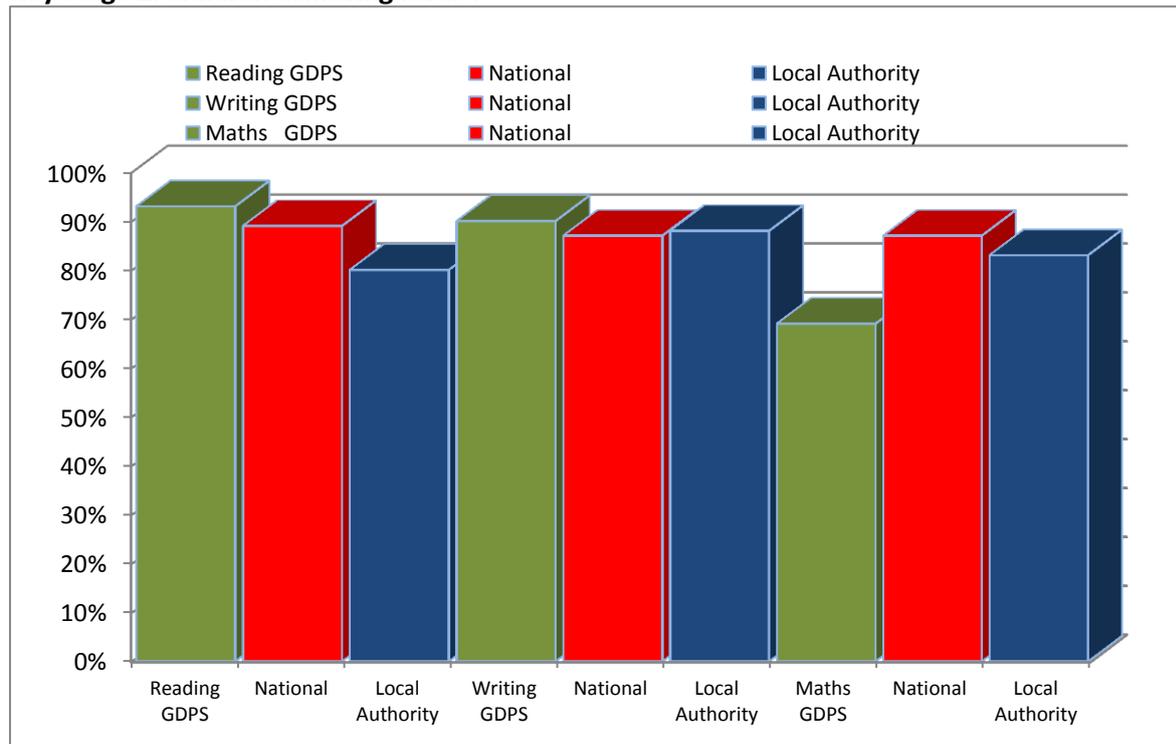
When children start in the Early Years and Foundation Stage they join us with a wide range of abilities. With the focus we give to individual needs and targets across the school, the vast majority have made good individual progress with 80.8% performing at a good level of development against nationally expected levels of 60%.

### Key Stage 1 Children Achieving LEVEL 2+



Our end of key stage 1 results show that children at Great Denham Primary School achieve well when compared to national and local authority results. Maths is something we have now brought into sharper focus.

## Key Stage 2: Children achieving level 4+



Our end of key stage 2 results show that children at Great Denham Primary School achieve well when compared to national and local authority in reading and writing but not maths. We have worked hard with the cohort - who had joined us from C. 15 different lower schools - to plug gaps they had in their maths knowledge/skills. This is something that we will continue to work on next year for the current year 5 cohort, to ensure national expectations in the new curriculum are met.

As we would expect, there is a degree of fluctuation on overall results depending on the size and nature of the cohort each year.

### How do we make sure our pupils are healthy, safe and well-supported?

We will continue to build on high standards through exciting and immersive learning;

We've made significant investment in information technology with a high computer and iPad to pupil ratio.

We continue to identify and support children with specific needs and the school has a named Special Educational Needs Coordinator.

Progress is carefully monitored and if external support is thought necessary, this is sought.

The school has a close working relationship with parents/carers and we seek to keep them informed and involved. Over time the school has developed an increased use of a range of strategies to ensure that pupils are interested and engaged.

We engage the children in developments at Great Denham, including those in our curriculum.



Teaching assistants reinforce and support learning effectively, working with groups and/or individuals depending on the needs identified.

Teachers assess all pupils' learning both formally and informally and targets are discussed and regularly reviewed with pupils.

Minority and underachieving groups are supported and their progress is specifically tracked so that they attain their potential.

## How are we working with parents and the community?

We value the contribution of parents and the community, and aim to involve them in decisions about the future of the school. Examples during the academic year 2014-2015 include;

- A Parent Forum will have a representative from each year group and will be used to receive and test ideas. Parents the largest group within the governing body (setting up in
- Friends of Great Denham (a parent teacher forum) have raised funds for the school during the year.
- We have been developing closer links with the parish council.
- The school choir has taken part in community events, including a performance at the O2?
- We play a leading part in National school collaboration group EOS and work actively with other schools to raise attainment.
- The school seeks partner schools worldwide (Copenhagen Exchange) to seek new ideas and creative approaches to learning.



form  
(2015/6)

## What activities and options are available to pupils?

- Reception and KS1 trip to Bromham Woods
- Year 5 and 6 trip to the forest
- Year 3 / 4 overnight stay in Bromham Woods
- Year 5 rock climbing
- Year 5 / 6 Bike ability
- Feel Good Week
- Leavers assembly and night out
- Picnic in the playground
- Various sports festivals

## Year 7 transition

We have worked very closely with Biddenham International School to develop the new year 7 curriculum and teaching to make sure we continue the



creative

curriculum style into their transition to secondary school. Everything is now ready for the year 6 children leaving Great Denham who are going to Biddenham. All the teachers and staff at Biddenham are excited and keen to be involved in the transition activities planned for the children.

## How are we making sure that every child gets teaching to meet their individual needs?

Constant assessment of children's progress is made. If any child is identified as not making expected progress then they may be given one to one support. They may be put in a smaller group so that more time is devoted to this group. They may join in on some intensive learning programmes. **This has been particularly successful in the schools Phonics workshops where the results were 88% against a national average of 74%.** Learning from our maths SAT's results this year the school will split next year's year 6 into two smaller groups so that more time can be spent with each individual child. We have also created a sensory area with the new sensory pod and garden to help more children with special educational needs.

## What have pupils told us about the school, and what have we done as a result?

24 pupils (2 from each class) are elected each year by their classmates to represent them on the school council. The school council meets every two weeks or so to discuss any issues or ideas that would help students and the school. Our school council are great ambassadors for the school, representing the school on a recent visit to Parliament and the House of Lords. They also represent the school when visiting other schools and have also been part of the interview panel when the school are appointing new teachers. In addition the Governors have met with some of Year 5 when reviewing their decision on whether or not to extend the iPad scheme to include all Key Stage 2 children.

As a governing body we have been extremely impressed by the openness of the children at Great Denham Primary School, their knowledge and understanding of the school's values and the growth in confidence and learning that we have witnessed as the school evolves and grows. The governing body also looks at how the school can support families and parents and constantly challenges the senior leadership team (SLT). One of the challenges facing the school at present is the lack of capacity to accommodate the children on Friday afternoons when children stay after the normal finishing time.

Staff use Friday afternoon as their statutory duty to plan and prepare for the coming week so the amount of adequate supervision is becoming a costly and difficult issue. This is something that the governors and SLT will be reviewing in the new school year.

If you as a parent or guardian wish to contact any of the governors you can do so by contacting the school.

## School Priorities for 2015/16

- To continue the focus on maths and seek to improve children's understanding of this subject by working in smaller groups and focussing on consolidating/practicing skills to ensure children become natural in their maths knowledge.
- To continue to improve our teaching by ensuring that all teachers are exposed to outstanding practice through our links with other schools both in our local authority and in other regions outside.
- To embed the New National Curriculum in all year groups and ensure no fall off in our children's progress as we transition to the new system of "working without levels".
- We will work towards ensuring our Pupil Premium children have their own individual plans to ensure their progress is optimized. This is already in place for SEN children who are making good progress.

## The School's Governing Body is made up as follow;

### *Staff Governors*

- *Denise Burgess – Head Teacher*
- *Rachael Watt – Maths Leader & Key Stage 1 Leader*

### *Parent Governors*

- *Paula Dunne – Link for Behaviour & Safety, Health & Safety*
- *Ben Pearson – Vice Chair Link for Safe Guarding, Behaviour & Safety*
- *David Fraser – Link for ICT, Achievement of Pupils*
- *Jo Rayson – Link for Achievement of Pupils*
- *Claire Wardman – Link for Leadership & Management*

### *Co-opted Governors*

- *Gulam Fatima – Link for Finance, Pupil Premium, Leadership & Management*
- *Carole Bell – Link for SEN, Leadership & Management*

### *Foundation Governors*

- *Mike Berrill – Executive Principle Biddenham Campus Trust Link for Quality of Teaching*
- *Jim Weir – Chair, Link for Achievement of Pupil, Behaviour & Safety*

### Local Authority Governor

- Mark Smith – Link for Quality of Teaching

### Associate Governor

- Jas Garcha

### Clerk to Governors

- Amy Jarvis