

Tranmere Park Primary School Finance and Resources Committee Annual Report 2013/14

In a snap shot, as the finance subcommittee, we have a specific focus on overseeing the financial performance of the school and supporting (and challenging!) Mrs Finley to make sure that school money is well spent. In particular we consider, for example:

- Whether school is allocating money and resources in line with its strategic priorities (and ultimately the educational benefit of its pupils)
- Whether school is making full use of all its assets and resources (including, for example, renting out community space to local groups which not only raises much needed money for school, but also contributes to out of school provision)

We also support Mrs Finley on Health and Safety matters which includes an annual review of relevant policies and a site review to identify potential risk areas on site and agree an action plan for addressing them.

In a time of continued local authority cuts, it has been a busy year for us. We have spent a significant amount of time both monitoring school's financial performance against its current year budget to minimise any areas of overspend, and reviewing forecasts and budgets for future years to ensure that school is adopting a sustainable approach to its financial management.

An example of some of the specific areas of focus within this remit have been:

- Priority areas of spend for our limited capital budget (which were ultimately agreed as being the reception block roof and I cannot remember which classrooms were being redecorated sorry!
- The financial impact of recent staffing changes and how school can continue to maintain its excellent staff to pupil ratios and outstanding results in an era of austerity
- The pricing of school meals and milk for the next academic year
- Schools energy costs and options that could be pursued to reduce these over the medium term

Mrs Finley has also spent a significant amount of time liaising with Leeds City Council in relation to the poor state of the school roof and we have had confirmation that this will be replaced in due course from local authority funds. This is excellent news for school as regular patch ups over recent months and years have been a significant drain on school budget and on occasion disruptive to the learning environment of our children.