



Dr S Thomas
Chair of Governors
Dore Primary School
Furniss Avenue
Sheffield
S17 3QP

27 August 2014

Dear Dr Thomas

Governor Mark Outcome

Following the Governor Mark Assessment Panel meeting and Maxine Ward's subsequent email on 5 August, we are delighted to confirm that your governing body has been awarded Governor Mark. The award lasts for three years, until 31 July 2017.

We congratulate you on the high quality of governance shown by your governing body, which already looked good in the documentation and was confirmed by the assessment visit. In particular we were impressed with areas of best practice that include:

- The creation of the Strategic Vision Statement which establishes short, medium and long term priorities, recognises all stakeholders, embraces values and has goals that are time bound.
- The governors' portal which provides easy access to governing body' resources and ensures that all governors have equal access to school improvement information when they need it.
- The introduction of the different coloured lanyards to assist with security checking for visitors and staff.
- The high priority given to governor training.
- The governing body's knowledge of standards and identification of areas of concern being carried through into improvement priorities.
- The proactive approach of the Chair of Governors in seeking feedback from other governors and staff, supporting improvement in relationships.

Thank you for the hospitality shown to Maxine Ward when she visited in June. This was very much appreciated.

As in most Governor Mark assessments, there are some suggested development areas. In your case they are:



- Effectiveness of meetings would be improved by ensuring that meeting times and agendas are planned better to tie in with the availability of relevant information and facilitate more effective scrutiny of relevant information with timely action where necessary.
- Agendas and minutes tend to be focused on process and discussion rather than a clear focus on improvement priorities linked to outcomes and record of challenge where the governing body hold the school to account. The governing body would better demonstrate how it fulfils its corporate role by ensuring that agendas focus more on school improvement priorities and minutes provide a more specific record of scrutiny and challenge.

The detail of these points can be found in the full feedback report.

I do hope you have found the Governor Mark process constructive and developmental, as well as an opportunity to celebrate the good work you all do. Many congratulations on this well-deserved award.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Hand".

Phil Hand
On behalf of Governor Mark