



Brookland Infant & Nursery School and Junior School Governing Body

Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence

As the school year ends the governors would like to share a few things with our community and wish you all a lovely summer break. We would also like to thank all Brookland staff and families for their support. The Governing Body works very closely with the Headteachers and staff developing and monitoring policies to ensure that the children are safe and that their individual needs are met. Our role is threefold: to provide strategic direction, to be a critical friend, and to ensure accountability. Contact our Chair, Laura Pincus, on chair@brooklandjnr.barnetmail.net

Governor News

We welcomed staff governors Aimee Epstein (INF) and Marcelle Jennings (JR) as well as Kate Blumhof (JR Parent Governor). We say goodbye to Tim Jackson, who has been instrumental in projects including the pool and the Y2 building. We wish Shirley Bates (JR DHT observer) a happy retirement and welcome Cara Christie.

Curriculum

Governors have monitored teaching and learning through analysing data, conversations with staff, feedback from pupils and via subject link visits. The Infant School continues to imbed the new EYFS curriculum and phonics scheme. Both schools have updated Religious Education policies in-line with guidance and have formalised their Curriculum Intent statements (see websites). In-person Learning Walks have resumed.

Communication and Community Engagement

The committee has monitored the effectiveness of the school websites, attendance figures, parental engagement, communication, and seen that British Values are at the heart of our school. We ensured GDPR compliance and appointed an external Data Protection Officer. The new parental communication platform has successfully been embedded and an added focus for the committee is sustainability.

Finance

We have challenged that secure financial management is in place and confirmed that money is being spent on resources that add value to the children's learning. We have scrutinized the budgets, pupil premium spending, contract tenders and made savings where possible. We have faced the challenge of rising

costs in every area and high staff cover costs due to sickness/Covid. The pool has become a new source of income by being let to other schools when not in use by ourselves or Swim Tank. We thank parents for their generous voluntary contributions.

Personnel

This year we continued to focus on well-being, and we now have a designated a Well-being Governor. We reviewed the Governor and Staff Codes of Conduct, the Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Parental and Parental Bereavement Leave Policy, the Disciplinary and Grievance Policy and the staffing structures. We discussed recruitment, training, the Good Work Plan and the DfE's Teachers' Standards document. The headteachers underwent their annual statutory performance reviews with external advisor input and their mid-year reviews. We thank the staff members who are leaving us at the end of this academic year, and we wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

Safeguarding and Personal Development

The well-being of children and staff remains, as always, an important priority. The governors were reassured that their mental and physical health was of utmost importance. We have reviewed the Child Protection, Online Safety and SEN and Inclusion Policies. A new Anti-bullying Policy (JR) was created in collaboration with children and parents. In the winter term a "Safeguarding Walk" in both schools gave governors the opportunity to ask students if they felt safe at school or online, and what they would do if they had any worries. We are happy to report that

the children felt secure in the school environment and had the tools to deal with challenges that might arise. We were impressed with the children's ability to articulate their feelings. If you have a safeguarding concern, contact Mrs. McCafferty (INF) or Ms. Aylen (JR).

Premises & Health and Safety

In addition to undertaking site walks and policy monitoring, the major project this year has been the rebuilding of the Y2 block. This has been a complicated process involving Barnet, contractors and suppliers. It has taken much longer than anticipated but is now nearing completion. The building and new playground will be ready for the start of the new school year. We are currently working with the council to secure funds for several new projects. We said goodbye to our assistant caretaker, Rupert Mace and welcomed Pellumb Qevani. We would like to thank site manager James Flanagan for assisting us in carrying out our duties.

Strategy

This committee is made up of the committee chairs and both Headteachers. We reviewed the school development plans to focus on priority areas, assessed and monitored risks, discussed succession planning, and reviewed our self evaluation audit and training needs. We further embedded the Governor Hub platform to improve communication and reduce workload. We held training and discussions on our overall SEN provision, curriculum, what it means to be a part of a multi-academy trust (MAT) and Ofsted visit protocols.