



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@brooklandinf.barnetmail.net or chair@brooklandjnr.barnetmail.net

Governor News

We welcomed new governors Judith Bernstein, Samantha Jayasekera-Heffer, and Jeff Harris, as well as Gabi Symons as a non-voting observer while Marcelle Jennings is on maternity leave. We say a grateful goodbye to Harriett Bloom and Katie Attwood.

Curriculum

Governors have monitored teaching and learning through analysing data, conversations with staff, feedback from pupils, our annual Curriculum Tea, and via subject link visits. Learning Walks were held on maths, science, SEND. We focussed on curriculum intent/implementation, progression and key skills. The Junior School had a visit from Ofsted Inspectors in December 2022, and we are proud to be rated "Good". The whole team worked so hard to demonstrate what it really means to be at Brookland Schools.

Communication and Community Engagement

The committee met once this year to review GDPR requirements and then as a governing body we decided to merge this committee with Premises.

Finance

This year governors have continued to challenge the presumption that secure financial management is in place in both schools and we have helped the schools provide assurance to Barnet. We have examined the budgets, pupil premium spending and contract tenders, including the new caterers. The increased cost of living has challenged our budgets. While many schools have a deficit, our schools have managed the budgets to ensure that we have ended the financial year with small contingencies. The schools ensure that money is being spent on

resources that add value to the children's learning and personal development. We would like to thank our longstanding Chair of Finance, Sapna Shah, and parents for their voluntary contributions.

Personnel

This year we continued to focus on well-being. The committee reviewed, amongst many others, the Governor and Staff Codes of Conduct, the Pay Policy, the Disciplinary Policy, staffing structures, training and recruitment. Our 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 safeguarding committee is responsible for reviewing and ensuring that all the policies relating to keeping children safe in school are up to date and relevant, including the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, the Attendance Policy and the Equalities Policy. Termly safeguarding link visits ensured that both schools were managing any concerns or issues, were following the proper procedures for reporting, and the governors were reassured that school continues to put mental and physical health at the top of their agenda.

In the summer term the Infant and Junior School SEND leaders took a number of governors on a learning walk around the two schools to demonstrate how children with additional needs are supported in their learning across all year groups. We were pleased we are working on creating Autism friendly classrooms.

The new sensory rooms in each school provides an opportunity for children with additional needs to self regulate be ready to learn. We were delighted that the Junior school's safeguarding arrangements were judged by Ofsted to be effective, and the PSHE curriculum was judged as outstanding.

Premises & Health and Safety

The start of the year saw the opening of the new Year 2 block after a long and complicated build process. We also benefited from the whole of the lower Infant playground being enlarged and resurfaced. A local grant has funded the replacement of all lighting in the school with LED lighting and one of our boilers with an air source heat pump. These projects will save money on our energy bills as well as reducing our carbon emissions by over 40 tonnes per year. Finally, we have bought and installed two PODs in the Junior School which provide a quiet, private setting for various meetings and one-to-one interventions. They are a welcome addition to the school. We would like to thank our caretaker, James Flanagan, for his tireless work throughout the year.

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 SEND provision, curriculum, Ofsted visit protocols, equality and sustainability.