



BROOKLAND INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL AND JUNIOR SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025



As the academic year draws to a close, the Governors would like to wish you all a lovely summer and to thank Brookland staff and families for your support. It has been a year packed with brilliant performances, excellent results, art, music, sport, cookery, and visits, all to a backdrop of Brooklands' strong values and support. The Governing Body works closely with both Headteachers and staff to ensure that the children are safe and individual needs are met. We are a critical friend, providing strategic direction and ensuring accountability.

Contact Chair, Laura Pincus, on chair@brooklandinf.barnetmail.net.

Community support

In these challenging financial times, the Schools are particularly grateful for the huge contribution from the Infant and Junior PAs, who have put in extraordinary efforts to raise funds and hosted fantastic events, entertainment and experiences for Brookland pupils.

Thank you, too, to parents who helped the two PAs to raise over £40,000 this year. This funding has led to new, interactive whiteboards for all Junior classrooms, and new playground equipment and classroom furniture for the Infants.

We are also grateful to parents who tapped into their corporate and charity networks.

This year, this led to over 50 laptops being donated to both Schools from Deloitte LLP, as well as invaluable coding and other educational games from Learning Resources and TTS.

If you work for a company that may be able to help with matched funding, technology donations, or other educational resources, please contact the Heads or governor Lucy Tobin - lucytobin@gmail.com - who can help facilitate.

Finance

The Finance committee met regularly to ensure careful use of funds and secure financial oversight. This year, rising costs, reduced funding and issues with the provision of certain services have created significant pressure.

As a result, the Infant School has ended the year in deficit, while the Junior School remains with an in-year surplus.

Despite these challenges, budgets are being managed prudently, with spending focused on supporting pupils' learning and wellbeing.

We thank parents for their generous voluntary contributions, which continue to make a meaningful impact.

The Finance committee remains committed to securing financial sustainability across both schools in the year ahead.



Strategy

This committee - which consists of all committee chairs, chair, vice chair and both Headteachers - reviewed the Schools' development plans, assessed and monitored risk across the school site, and examined our self-evaluation audit and training needs.

Next year, our priorities are to continue to improve governors' subject knowledge, especially on proposed changes to the National Curriculum. We will also be paying close attention to proposed changes to SEND provision.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding committee has had a busy year of meetings, ensuring policies on keeping our children safe in school are updated, including those on Child Protection and Safeguarding, Behaviour Statements and Accessibility.

Termly safeguarding link visits ensured both schools were managing any concerns, and following reporting procedures. At our regular meetings, we consider specific risks in our local area and build in necessary safeguards.

The Department for Education is set to include revised guidance on Relationships, Sex, and Health Education and on gender questioning children in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025. We are monitoring progress on legislation of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, the emerging learnings from the Casey Audit and subsequent inquiries, and the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy will be reflected in future versions.

Governor news

We successfully recruited a new SEND governor, Karen Gubbay, who is looking forward to joining us in September.

We thank Claire Rosen, our outgoing Wellbeing governor, for her years of valuable contributions.

Curriculum

The Curriculum committee updated policies and processes to ensure effective learning, teaching, assessment and home learning. Governors continued to monitor the quality of teaching and learning through regular analysis of data, feedback from pupils and staff, the Curriculum tea and subject link visits.

The RE and music development curricula were reviewed, and we also examined the Department of Education's new national interim curriculum review.

Personnel

Several key personnel policies were reviewed in quarterly Personnel committee meetings. We updated the Schools' policies on pay, parental, adoption, and bereavement leave, and reviewed the Schools' recruitment & wellbeing policies.

Governors held annual statutory performance reviews and mid-reviews with the Infant and Junior School headteachers.

We supported the Schools with challenges arising from some long-term teacher absences and recognise the hard work and dedication of the staff body. We thank the staff members who are leaving us at the end of this academic year, wishing them all the best in their new endeavours.

Premises

This committee worked with site manager James Flanagan on practical issues across Brooklands' beautiful grounds and site. We reviewed policies relating to educational visits and CCTV this year, continued to push for a long-awaited heat pump system, and supported the Junior School during new roof installations on year 5 and 6 classrooms.