

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Governors would like to begin this report by thanking the staff of the school (teaching and non-teaching) for all their hard work on behalf of the pupils of South Harringay School, especially given the exceptional circumstances we have experienced this year. It has been a challenge for everyone.

The role of the Governing Body is to ensure high standards continue to exist at our school. Governors are not responsible for the day-to-day running of the school. The responsibilities of the Governing Body as outlined by the Government and endorsed by the Local Authority, are to support, encourage and challenge the school in all it does, so that every child in its care receives the best possible education.

School Governing Bodies have 3 core functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

The full Governing Body met 6 times in 2020-21, and each of our 3 committees; (i) Resources, (ii) Teaching & Learning and (iii) Children, Families and Community met 4 or 5 times. All of the meetings this year have taken place virtually. We are hoping to resume in-person meetings during this academic year but will be guided by the latest Covid risk assessments and guidance.

As a Governing Body, we decided early in the spring term to merge two of our committees into one. 'Teaching & Learning' and 'Children, Families and Community', have now become; 'Curriculum and Community'. We feel this structure will allow us to be more strategic with our time.

Almost all non-staff governors are a link governor for one or more of; English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, Early Years, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and Safeguarding, and will meet with the staff subject lead or the headteacher, usually twice a year, to discuss and monitor progress. Our Safeguarding link meets the headteacher termly.

Usually, all governors come into school annually for 'Governors in School' day which generally takes place sometime in March. Unfortunately, for the second year in a row, Covid restrictions prevented this taking place. We are really hopeful that this year governors will be able to come back into school for this very special day. It gives us an opportunity to observe lessons and various activities, have lunch with and talk to some of the children.

Governors are also expected to attend training sessions to enhance their skills and keep up to date in the constantly changing education environment, this year most of our training has taken place online.

School Improvement Priorities 2020-21

Each academic year the Headteacher and staff produce a School Improvement Plan. This important document represents the vision for improvement in the form of targets and actions and ensures a commitment to raise achievement in all areas of school life. Much progress has been made this year but due to Covid and school closure some success criteria have not been achieved or only partially achieved. Some of these targets will be brought over to the SIP for 2021-22.

Curriculum and Community previously 'Teaching & Learning' and 'Children, Families and Community'

The autumn term highlighted the sections of the school improvement plan that would be supported and monitored by these committees.

Other areas the committee support and monitor:

Link Governor Visits - Undertaken by Governors/Teaching Lead with report back to committee.

Catch-Up Curriculum and Data - Reports from Head Teacher.

Communication with Families - Parent/carer survey and review.

Pupil Premium and Sport Premium

Resources

The autumn term highlighted the sections of the school improvement plan that would be supported and monitored by this committee.

The school currently remains in a healthy financial situation despite the pandemic, budget cuts and falling pupil numbers boroughwide. The swimming pool has suffered more Covid closures this year, despite this, the school have successfully managed these closures and served the school and local community with the pool and associated rooms as much as possible within Covid restrictions.

The pool is still projected to generate extra revenue for the school in the coming financial year, for this reason, over the summer break, we have gone ahead with a long overdue refurbishment of the changing areas. We're sure this will be appreciated and enjoyed by our school and the wider community. The refitting of air-handling unit by the Local Authority also went ahead during this period.

Plans for wider refurbishment of the school are still under discussion with the Local Authority.

Membership of the Governing Body

The Governing Body currently has 11 members and 1 associate member:

2 Parent Governors elected by parents

1 Local Authority Governor

1 Staff Governor appointed by a ballot of the staff & **1** Staff Governor co-opted

6 additional co-opted Governors appointed by the Governing body

The Head Teacher is an ex-officio governor

School governors for 2020-2021

Staff (2)

Ian Scotchbrook (Headteacher)
Kelli Arnold

Parent (2)

Amy Dowling
Grace Wasluk

LA (1)

Peter Snow

Co-opted

Karen Tate (Chair)
Keith Pullinger (Vice-Chair)
Michael Taylor
Neill Reilly
Isabel Garood
Naveed Kazmi

Associate (1)

Mike Gordon

We have received one resignation during this academic year from Amy Dowling. The whole Governing Body would like to take this opportunity to thank her for contribution over the last 3 years, we will miss her. Elections for a new Parent Governor will be run by the school sometime in the autumn term.

We are also in the process of filling our 2 remaining co-opted posts. One post will be filled in the autumn term by Martha Young a member of our local community, the whole Governing Body would like to welcome her.

Governing Body South Harringay School