

South Harringay Infant & Junior School

Annual Governing Body Report for the Academic Year 2024 - 2025

We, the Governing Body, would like to begin by expressing our deepest gratitude to all the teaching and non-teaching staff for their unwavering dedication to the pupils of South Harringay School.

The role of the Governing Body is to ensure high standards continue to exist at our school by ensuring clarity of vision, holding the headteacher to account, and overseeing financial performance.

This year has been exceptionally positive for The School. We have seen a net gain in pupil numbers, with our Reception class oversubscribed and our total roll reaching 397 pupils. Pupil attendance remains strong, outperforming the national average significantly.

Most importantly, our academic outcomes continue to flourish; the latest Inspection Data Summary Report (ISDR) places our school in the top 20% nationally across the majority of academic measures.

It was a joy to return for our annual 'Governors in School Day,' which gave us the opportunity to observe lessons, speak with subject leads, and witness the incredible behaviour and attitudes of our children firsthand.

Review of Strategic Goals

We rigorously monitor the School Development Plan to hold leadership to account. Here is an update on the strategic targets set previously:

- **Maths Mastery (Met):** We supported the decision to adopt the White Rose Maths scheme. The School successfully rolled this out across all phases, ensuring staff engaged in extensive CPD. During our monitoring visits, we observed highly positive attitudes to learning, noting that children are particularly strong in mathematical fluency.
- **Digital Literacy (In Progress):** We supported the strategic direction to adopt a new computing curriculum. The School has begun rolling this out, starting with updated online safety units. The School's rollout of further digital literacy skills is ongoing as they continue to audit IT hardware.
- **Behaviour and Attitudes (Met):** We supported the decision to establish 12 new Junior Leader roles for Key Stage 2 pupils. The School successfully implemented these roles, giving pupils practical responsibility within the school community. Furthermore, we supported the initiative for The School to formalise an inter-generational outreach relationship with Peregrine House, which saw the school choir visit and decorate the recreation room for the residents.
- **Pastoral Care & Leadership (Met):** We supported the decision to implement a new pastoral supervision model. The School successfully rolled out this 'school around a child' approach to provide early intervention and tailored support for families who require assistance but do not meet formal social care thresholds

Impact of Governance

Our core duty is to challenge leadership and ensure that strategic decisions directly benefit our pupils. Key impacts this year include:

- **Enhancing the Safe Play Environment:** We supported the decision to allocate a £126k capital investment to completely refurbish the KS1 playground. The School successfully managed the rollout with the contractor, Creative Play, delivering the project on time and within budget. The outcome has been transformational, directly resulting in safer, more productive play and a noticeable reduction in playground accidents.
- **Improving Pupil Nutrition:** We supported the decision to bring the contract in-house. The School successfully rolled out the new service, supported by "Chefs in School". This has been an overwhelming success, vastly improving the quality of fresh, healthy food and resulting in high meal uptake, with 377 children enjoying school meals daily.
- **Challenging EAL Support:** During our data reviews, we identified that children arriving with limited English (EAL) were performing less well than their peers. We challenged leadership on this data and supported the decision for The School to commission a specific research project comparing our practices with other high-performing EAL schools. This action ensures that The School will use best practices to provide these pupils with the highest level of support moving forward.
- **Upgrading School Technology for Parents:** To directly address parent survey feedback regarding communication, we supported the decision to transition to a new Management Information System. The School evaluated multiple systems and is currently rolling out the Arbor platform. This investment will streamline communication between The School and families, whilst reducing the cost of maintaining multiple third-party software licenses.
- **Safeguarding and Wellbeing:** To protect pupil wellbeing and focus, we supported the Headteacher's decision to implement a ban on smart phones starting in September. The School reached this decision after conducting a specific survey and engaging in informal discussions with families

The Governing Body

The Governing Body consists of a highly dedicated group of volunteers and staff who give their time to ensure The School's continued success. We are pleased to report that our board remained at full capacity this year, with no terms of office concluding before the end of the academic year, providing excellent stability and consistent leadership for The School.

Our membership for the year was as follows:

- **Chair of Governors:** Karen Tate (Co-opted Governor)
- **Vice-Chair:** Keith Pullinger (Local Authority Governor). Keith also successfully continued in his role as the Chair of the Resources Committee
- **Headteacher:** Ian Scotchbrook (ex-officio)
- **Parent Governors:** Tom Luff and Adrian Smith
- **Staff Governor:** Kelli Arnold. We were delighted to see Kelli successfully re-elected to the role by a ballot of the staff this year
- **Co-opted Governors:** Naveed Kazmi, Melanie Ahmed, Alice Hansen, Victoria Segal, Tom Carter, Max Tobias, and Grace Wasyluk
Grace also successfully continued in her role as the Chair of the Children and Curriculum Committee