



Governing Body Review of the Year 2014/15

20 July 2015

As we are approaching the end of the summer term, here is a summary and review of the last year.

Governing Body Membership Changes

On 19 July Michael Edwards concludes his term as a parent Governor (although his daughter left Greenway a couple of years ago) and will be leaving the Governing Body after the final Governing Body meeting of the academic year. Lorna Ginn is also stepping down from her Governor responsibilities this year due to her personal circumstances changing. We are very grateful to them both for their considerable contributions to the work of the Governing Body during the last few challenging years.

We are delighted that Louise Collins has successfully stood again for the position of parent Governor and that Ann Marie Costelloe will be joining the Governing Body as a parent Governor – many of you may know her as she has sat on Parent Forum.

We still have one vacancy on the Governing Body for a co-opted Governor (this is normally someone from the community) so if you know of anyone who might be interested please ask them to make contact with me, Elizabeth O'Reilly, through the school office.

Actions taken by the Governing Body through 2014/15

Governors, working with the Head and Senior Leadership Team set the strategic direction of the school and monitor standards, acting as a “critical friend” and holding the school to account. Every year, during the summer term, we support the school leaders in agreeing a plan for the coming year - you will be provided with a summary of this separately in the autumn once it has been finalised at our Governing Body Strategy Meeting early in the new academic year.

We are delighted as to how the Greenway community has responded to the transition from a First School to a Primary – staff have worked exceptionally hard in supporting pupils and parents as the school goes through the process and we are extremely grateful to them for all their efforts.

This year has seen the greatest change in education since Margaret Thatcher's reforms with amongst other things, a new curriculum; a new Special Educational Needs Code of Conduct; and new Assessment Procedures. We are pleased to report that the school have



implemented these changes effectively notwithstanding the huge amount of additional work this has presented for staff and governors.

We have agreed a balanced budget for the forthcoming year and you will receive a summary financial statement shortly which will also be placed on the school website. Governors undertake regular visits to the school to be appraised of the administrative systems used by them and are very pleased that the School Gateway electronic payment system continues to be well supported by parents.

Governors monitor the spending of Pupil Premium to try and ensure that the money is used in the most effective way for the benefit of those particular children eligible for it. You will see a summary of how this money has been spent on the school's website. We are delighted that external providers of support services used by the school continue to praise the school's exemplary approach in how pupils' needs at Greenway are supported.

Governors and school leaders are keen to keep the school website up to date with school activities and hope that parents have found it of interest and use over the past school year – there has certainly been a lot going on! Fiona Duck has supported the school with additions to the website and we hope that you will find the revised home page even easier to navigate – this is due for implementation shortly.

Governors support the school in monitoring a rolling programme of improvements. The school's drainage systems have been improved; the new classroom built during the autumn term is now in use; and we are very pleased with the upgraded toilets near the dining hall. Governors have been involved in the discussions leading up to work commencing during the summer holidays to upgrade the Key Stage 2 toilets and develop the old ICT suite into two rooms. These rooms will enable the school to have additional space to provide a further meeting room and/or a room for small group teaching as well as a place to support children who may be experiencing some social and emotional difficulties. The school's site manager, John Rapson, has been key to ensuring the smooth running of these various projects and we thank him for this.

The Greenway Parent Forum has proved an effective method of communication between school and parents – this will continue to be chaired by Nigel Wiggins who is also Vice Chair of the Governing Body.

Governors have been pleased to work with the school and GSA in supporting the delivery of improved IT facilities within the school to include a new server and wireless network, some new laptops and I-pads which are now in place.

With the Senior Leadership Team, we have continued to monitor the School Plan particularly in its teaching and learning objectives and those targets set for pupils achievements and standards. This year's results will be finalized in the Autumn term whereupon they will be assessed by the school with the Governing Body.

All Governors undertake training annually to support them in their roles and responsibilities and regularly visit the school to monitor areas of the School Plan not least this year to consider the new curriculum and subject leadership. However there have also been visits associated around the delivery of writing within the curriculum, science and sports provision; the new Behaviour policy and around the use and impact of Pupil Premium funding; statutory health and safety and safeguarding visits; and attendance at school events such as assemblies. Parent Governor David Watts has been of considerable help in supporting the school with the production of an up to date inventory of assets for which all are very grateful!

Governors Louise Collins and Beth Baylay have been instrumental in preparing, carrying out and reporting back to you on a parent and child questionnaire – you have been sent results in

this respect separately. We have also undertaken a staff survey this year which was coordinated by Alison Hoffman and feedback from which has been used in the school planning process.

Following on from last year's feedback on the parent and child questionnaire and analysis of the feedback on last year's schools reports, a new style of reports has been introduced which Katharine Ellwood has written to you about separately.

Future Plans

We are looking forward to working with the school with their first Year 6 cohort as they come to the end of their time at Greenway and move onto their secondary provision.

As you are aware, Governors have been involved in reviewing and updating the school's Behaviour policy with the school's leadership team and pupils. This policy was implemented in September 2014 and was presented to parents in the autumn term. Greenway parents have been involved in a pilot project for Step On training which was generally well received. We are reviewing the impact of the Behaviour Policy as the school moves to full Primary status next year alongside working with the school in producing a revised Anti Bullying Policy - this has included seeking expert input from outside agencies as well as significant input from pupils.

We have been delighted to note the increased sporting opportunities for children in the school this year ably led by Mr Loczy – we had hoped that he would have been supported by a Sports Apprentice in 2014/15 but unfortunately this did not come to fruition. We are however pleased to confirm that Mr Lewis will be joining Greenway in September 2015 in that role. He will provide additional support for all pupils at the school and we look forward to welcoming him to the team. We will continue to monitor the use of Sports Premium funding and provision of sport across the school next year.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer.

Elizabeth O'Reilly
Chair of Governors