

Governing Body Review of the Year 2017/18

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

Governing Body Membership Changes

Nigel Wiggins term of office as a co-opted governor came to an end during the autumn term. We are most grateful to him for his support and assistance during his time on the Governing Body. Nigel acted as Vice Chair and also sat on the Personnel Finance and Premises Committee as well as chairing Parent Forum. Nigel supported the Governing Body with their safeguarding responsibilities particularly around the Single Central Record. We are very pleased to say that Nigel's long association with the school has not ended as he is continuing to help out as a volunteer in Reception.

Actions taken by the Governing Body through 2017/18

School Plan for 2017/18: With the Senior Leadership Team and our external advisor, we have continued to monitor the School Plan, particularly in its teaching and learning objectives and those targets set for pupils' achievements and standards. Specifically, we have monitored in a variety of ways the Maths Project introduced into school this year including visits undertaken to the school by our link governor for Maths Ann Marie Costello. We are delighted that this project has had such a positive impact upon staff and pupils. Following an overhaul by Hertfordshire County Council of their model e Safety and Data Security Policy we have spent further time developing this to meet the needs of the school – Rachel Hesslegrave has been the link governor for this. We have undertaken a comprehensive review of the Pupil Behaviour Policy and Lou Collins as governor link has worked extensively with the school's Senior Leadership Team and particularly staff governor Beverley Murphy to ensure that practice is reflected in the policy adopted throughout the school. GDPR has been a focus for us all and we have worked with our Data Protection Officer Richard Maskrey to ensure that the school is compliant.

Standards: You may recall from our reports over the last two or three years that staff and governors have faced many changes particularly with regard the new assessment procedures – these are constantly evolving. We undertook further bespoke training this year to ensure that as governors we have a real and current understanding of the information available to us so that we may monitor and track progress of all pupils effectively as this is one of our key responsibilities. A small group of governors has worked with the school in developing documentation that supports this work. The evidence we have reviewed to-date shows that the school has continued to deliver a very good education for all pupils. We are very pleased to report that the preliminary data for 2018 is really encouraging and shows even more positive results than last year. We remain very grateful to all the school's highly professional and well led staff for their delivery of a fantastic education to all pupils.

Budget: Throughout the year the Governing Body monitor expenditure against budget headings and prepare and submit an annual return to the local authority at the end of the

financial year. Governors undertake regular visits to the school and are appraised of the administrative systems used by them. 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.

Pupil Premium: Governors monitor the spending of Pupil Premium to ensure that the money received 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 – governor links Fiona Duck and Michelle Webb meet with the school's INCO Dani Roe on a regular basis to specifically discuss the provision for those pupils with additional needs.

Premises: We support the school in monitoring a rolling programme of improvements and we are very pleased to have Governor Nick Brown's expertise as a qualified surveyor on the Governing Body who supports us in undertaking regular visits to monitor that identified issues are swiftly addressed

Externally, tree works have been carried out in line with our three-year tree plan and dangerous and overhanging branches have been removed. New signs have been installed at both school entrances and pot holes in the road filled in. The lovely new benches, purchased by the GSA, have been installed around the grounds. Recently, the worn soffits and cladding on the school buildings have been treated and are now looking much better.

Plans are underway for raised beds to be built in the school garden in the autumn; one for each class at Greenway to use and maintain. Also, there are plans for the creation of a courtyard garden in the area between the hall and the staff room.

Internally, the toilets in Red Ash and Pine have been refurbished and those in Sycamore and Maple decommissioned. The flooring has been replaced in the Early Years' classrooms as well as in the dining room and corridor and stairs.

The school's new site manager has hit the ground running (continuing the good work of our previous site manager John Rapson who has now retired) and we thank him for this.

Parent Forum: We would like to thank all parents/carers who have been on Parent Forum this year and all those who have fed views in to their representatives. The Greenway Parent Forum continues to prove an effective method of communication between school and parents and we are grateful to Governor Louise Farrow and Alison Hoffman for chairing this so effectively.

GSA: Governors have been pleased to work with the school and GSA in supporting many fund-raising events. The money raised has been invaluable in a wide variety of ways eg the outdoor play equipment, the large inflatable for Sports week, Yr 6 leavers books and years books, teachers wish list for each class and Easter Egg hunt for KS1.

Governor training: 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 Maths Project. There have also been visits associated around special educational needs provision; data; the quality of teaching and learning; Maths, English, Science and Sports provision; statutory health and safety and safeguarding visits; and attendance at school events such as assemblies and parental workshops.

School Website: Governors and school leaders are keen to keep the school website up to date with school activities and hope that parents have continued to find it of interest and use over the past school year. You will see from the Pupil tab of the website that there has certainly been a huge amount going on for every year group with plenty of exciting off site residential and day trips and special visitors to the school. Most recently our local MP David Gauke came to meet with Year 5 and 6 pupils. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all staff and parent/carer volunteers for facilitating these trips/occasions and giving the children so many happy memories.

Parent/Child Questionnaire 2018: Governors Beth Baylay and Lou Collins have been instrumental in circulating this year's questionnaire and we are really grateful to everyone who completed this. The results have been circulated separately.

We have also undertaken a staff survey this year which was coordinated by Governor Alison Hoffman and are grateful to staff for their support with this. The results showed overwhelmingly that staff at Greenway believe the school provides a positive working environment. Many of the comments from staff focussed on the supportive leadership of the school and the happy atmosphere and culture, as well as the children and wider school community.

Sport: We have been delighted to note the even greater increase in sporting opportunities for children in the school this year, ably led by Mr Loczy and our sports specialist Mr Lewis who started as our sports apprentice and now works as a teaching assistant. There have been many sporting successes but we wish to specifically congratulate the Year 6 girls' table tennis team, which won the National Championships for their age group – Sophie Mabbs, Aliya Power, Lilly Atkin and Bella Tonev. We will continue to monitor the use of Sports Premium funding and provision of sport across the school next year. We would like to thank all those parents who volunteer in supporting pupils in their various sporting endeavours – it would not be possible to run so much sport without you!

Music and Other Achievements: We have been very pleased to hear from the Headteacher of the wonderful musical occasions enjoyed by so many of the children throughout the year culminating recently in a fantastic end of year concert in the Ashlyns Chapel.

We wish those staff leaving the school this year (Mrs Duffield and Mrs Harris) the very best of luck in the future. We are looking forward to working with the school in the new academic year.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth O'Reilly MBE

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body