

Governing Body Review of the Year 2021/22

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



Greenway Primary
& Nursery School

Governing Body Membership Changes

Rachel Hesslegrave has decided to step away from the Governing Body of which she has been a stalwart for many years. Initially she was elected as a parent governor before taking a break from governing. However, she missed it so much that after 2 years she returned in September 2015 as a co-opted governor and was re-appointed to this role in 2019. Rachel has had experience in a wide range of governing roles including as Chair of the Curriculum and Learning Committee and will be missed by us all.



Actions taken by the Governing Body throughout 2021/22

Corona-virus: At the end of the academic year 2020/21 we had hoped that we would return to some sort of normality in September 2021 and we are pleased that to some extent this has been achieved. However, you will be aware that Corona-virus has been ever present and that classes and their teachers have been affected by illness on and off throughout the year – Year 6 were particularly badly affected in the Spring Term. We have remained very aware of the challenges faced by the entire school community during this difficult time and remain very grateful to parents/carers for supporting the school as well as you have. Your children remain extraordinary and have embraced their learning and school life enthusiastically despite the challenges so many have experienced.

Vision and Values: As a Governing Body we have remained focussed on our Vision and Values for the school which you can see on the school website. It is clear that whatever steps staff, governors and parents take for Greenway, the children are at the centre of everything.

School Plan for 2021/22: You may recall that with the Senior Leadership Team and our independent School Improvement Partner (SIP), governors had contributed to and began the monitoring of an ambitious school plan in 2019/2020 linked to the new Education Inspection Framework and the new curriculum. However, as a result of the pandemic our focus had to shift and much of what was contained within that Plan needed to be carried forward. With so many challenges over the past two years we have ensured that the school's focus has been on priorities linked to the Quality of Education and to Behaviours, Attitudes and Personal Development. A short version of the School Plan is on the school website.

Throughout this year, we have continued to be reassured by inspection feedback from our SIP's visits that staff are doing all that they need to do to ensure that the children at Greenway are not disadvantaged by the pandemic and that they are successfully getting back on track. Governors have

additionally been delighted by the extent to which the highly respected English and Maths educational consultants, (who are used by the school to support learning development in those areas), have been impressed with the teacher delivery and progress made by your children. You may be aware that the library has been given an overhaul and we are very pleased that the children now have access to an updated selection of books supporting the curriculum.

Standards: Formal testing has taken place this year – the first time in 3 years. At the point of writing, we have yet to receive the Year 6 data but this will be shared with you via the school website as soon as we are able. Prior to lockdown governors regularly visited the school to monitor areas of the School Plan and visits have gradually been reinstated this year to include Writing and Book Scrutiny in English; PSHE and Relationships Sex and Health Education. There have also been governor visits associated around special educational needs provision and internal school data and statutory governor health and safety and safeguarding visits. We are looking forward to the next academic year when we anticipate being able to increase the number of our visits to school.

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. Due to exceptional circumstances governors agreed a budget with an in year deficit for 2021/2022 which is covered by a carry forward – all schools are facing difficult times and we are doing our utmost to think creatively and support the long term financial sustainability of the school.

Pupil Premium/Catch Up Premium: Governors monitor the spending of Pupil Premium and Catch Up 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

Actions taken by the Governing Body throughout 2021/22 (cont'd)

that external providers of support services used by the school continue to praise the school's exemplary approach in how all 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 to include those eligible for pupil premium. We have received feedback from parents that they are particularly impressed with the information contained within the Special Educational Needs Information on the school website and would like to thank Ms Roe for all her work in this respect.

Premises: We support the school in monitoring a rolling programme of improvements and we are very pleased to continue to have Governor Nick Brown's expertise as a qualified surveyor on the Governing Body. A roof inspection has confirmed that the school is watertight but heavy rain has continued to cause challenges for the drainage system. Therefore work has been undertaken to address this although typically the weather has improved since the work was completed!

Parent Forum: The Greenway Parent Forum continues to prove an effective method of communication and feedback between school and parents and we are grateful to Governor Fiona Duck for chairing this group although we acknowledge that it has only met once remotely this year. We would nevertheless like to thank all parents/carers who have been on Parent Forum this year and all those who have fed views into their representatives. We are hoping that we will be able to return to more regular meetings in the next academic year.

GSA: We are delighted that this year the GSA has been able to return to some face to face fund raising activities which has raised in excess of £18,000! Money raised has been invaluable in supporting delivery to the children in a wide variety of ways:



Governor training: All Governors undertake training annually to support them in their roles and responsibilities and this year has been no different - a great deal of this has now moved online. The entire Governing Body has had training around the Ofsted Inspection framework and governors have separately had training on a variety of topics including the curriculum; safeguarding; health and safety requirements; and finance.

School Website: Governor Nicola Reid has reviewed the school website with school leaders to ensure that this is up to date and legally compliant and we are grateful to her for this piece of work.

Parent/Child Questionnaire: Governors Louise Collins and Rachel Hessegrave have organised a parent and child questionnaire the results of which are circulated separately. Thank you to all those who responded.

Staff Survey: We have also undertaken a staff survey this year which was coordinated by Governor Rich Millar and we appreciate the staff supporting this. The results showed overwhelmingly that staff at Greenway believe the school provides a positive working environment with delightful children. As a Governing Body we would like to commend staff on the creative ways in which they have managed their workload this year when faced with the challenges still presented by Covid.

Sport: As a Governing Body we have worked with staff and parents through Parent Forum this year to produce an updated Team Selection Policy spearheaded by Governor Lou Collins and Mr Lewis setting out how we deliver sport at Greenway for the benefit of all children. We took on board feedback given by parents and are immensely grateful to Mr Lewis and the rest of the staff for their commitment to giving all children some incredible opportunities – inevitably it has not been possible to get back to pre Covid events and competitions instantaneously, but we know that all involved are doing their very best to deliver an amazing offer to the children. Well done to Mr Lewis on the sports provision at Greenway and we are proud that he was invited to speak at the Hertfordshire PE Conference earlier this year. Congratulations inevitably go to the amazing Year 6 girls table tennis team in winning the National Championships. We will continue to monitor the use of Sports Premium funding and provision of sport across the school next year.

Music and Other Achievements: Each year group has been involved in trips to a range of exciting places to support their curriculum learning, as well as two successful residentials in Yr 4 and in Yr 6.

Greenway Camps: Governors have worked hard with staff to provide an Easter and Summer camp for many Greenway families involving more than 100 pupils which will support those parents needing childcare. We wish everyone involved lots of fun over the summer.

We wish those staff leaving the school this year (Mr Swatman and Mrs Brine) the very best of luck in the future.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth O'Reilly MBE

**Chair of Governors
on behalf of the Governing Body**