

Whitehall Park School Governor's Newsletter

Report from Whitehall Park Governing Body : SPRING TERM 2017

We hope that you all had a good break over the extended half term break as we move into our wonderful permanent school building. This is a new addition to the regular, weekly WPS newsletter, where our aim is to keep you informed about our work as governors of the school's local governing body (LGB).

Governors meet as a full LGB twice a term, as well as in our smaller committees, finance and education. Children will also see us during our visits to the school both on our group learning walks and in our individual link governor roles, focussed on specific priority areas, such as the curriculum, parental engagement, health and safety, and safeguarding.

The Governing Body met in January and we concentrated on the following business:

- We spent some time focussing on the school's termly report to the Governing Body and examined key pupil data on the children's progress. The school produces a comprehensive report for governors each term which sets out key information/data that Governors might need to be aware of. It helps us to understand what the school is hoping to achieve and gives us the data we need to assess how the school is doing. We use this as an opportunity to identify areas to focus on and decide where to provide appropriate challenge in the governing body's role as a critical friend to the headteacher and wider school staff
- We received feedback on the school budget from our Finance Committee. As a growing school, we always face the challenge of how to balance the evolving, and at times unpredictable, needs of a growing school.
- We received our regular update on progress with the move back to our permanent site in Whitehall Park and our new school building. This has been a long and challenging process for the entire school community, and the governing body particularly expressed its gratitude to the staff for managing to deliver a wonderful educational experience despite frequent changes to our temporary setting.
- The Governing Body, along with the school leadership team and wider staff, are deep in the midst of preparation for our first Ofsted inspection, which can occur any time in or after the third year of operation. The school receives regular external monitoring visits from the DfE and Bellevue Education, which provides school improvement services to BPET schools, and conducts regular external moderation with our colleagues from BPET and Islington.
- There was an update on Governor scrutiny of key school policies which we undertake on an ongoing basis in accordance with our yearly work plan.

At most full GB meetings, Governors receive some form of training to assist us in fulfilling our role. At this meeting we focussed on safeguarding, which is a key area of focus for the school. Governors undertook an interactive Safeguarding quiz presented by Nicki Wright (Assistant Headteacher) and discussed the school's safeguarding policies as well as the roles and responsibilities of the governing body. We received a very reassuring report from our Lead Governor for Safeguarding Tim Godfrey, following his last visit to the school.

We also discussed recent updates to the School Development and Evaluation Plan 2016-17. The school development plan is our key working document for tracking progress against the school's goals. This plan covers amongst other things:-

- An overview of achievement and progress in writing, maths and reading;
- Progress of key groups of children, including new arrivals and by gender;
- Attainment in the Early Years Foundation Stage;
- Assessment of the Quality of Teaching/Leadership and management at the school;
- Outcomes planned for this year across the current year groups.

You can find full details of the Governing Body (including governor biographies – and photos!) on the school website including our annual Governance report and other information about us.

PAUL DOMJAN, CHAIR OF GOVERNING BODY