



Brookland Junior School and Brookland Infant and Nursery School Governing Body



Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence

As we approach the end of the school year the governors would like to take this opportunity to share a few things with all parents and carers and wish you all a lovely summer break. We would also like to thank all Brookland families for their support throughout the school year. The governors are always striving to make our two “Outstanding” schools even better, and our committees have worked very hard this year to achieve this.

The Governing Body works very closely with the Head Teachers and staff developing and monitoring policies to ensure that the children are safe and that their individual needs are met. Our role is threefold: to provide strategic direction, to be a critical friend, and to ensure accountability. The Governing Body’s vision is “Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence”. It is our aim to create an environment where children are happy, safe, accepted and challenged. At Brookland Schools we celebrate our differences, and everyone is special and unique. If you have anything you want to discuss or share with the governors please contact our Chair using the email address at the bottom of this newsletter.

Governor News

This year we said goodbye to those who have stood down from the governing body: Anna Black, Rachel Beard, Russell Caller, Claire MacKenzie, and our extremely dedicated past chair, Mark Leibling. We are extremely grateful to all of them for their service. They have all made a significant contribution as school governors and we wish them well with their future endeavors.

We are delighted to announce that we have co-opted three new governors – Lisa Weinbrenn, a parent, Carol Frankl an Associate Member for SEN, and Harriet Bloom, who has rejoined us as an Associate Member for our Travel Plan.

Curriculum Committee

This term, the governors have reviewed the data analysis from both schools regarding last year’s results and the target setting for future years. We are so proud of the progress that each child has made. Each year, the governors are overwhelmed with the amount of information and analysis undertaken for each student so as to understand their individual progress and potential.

The governors would like to congratulate all members of staff and the children for their outstanding achievements in last year’s end of Foundation stage results, Key Stage Teacher Assessments (Y2 and Y6) and Y6 SATs. Provisional data shows that this year has been very successful; this is to be confirmed in September.

In the Curriculum Committee, governors monitor teaching and learning through conversations with both Head Teachers, child’s voice meetings and whole school meetings. We also look at project work and homework, and talk to the children when we visit the school.

The committee has discussed assessment, and policies on curriculum, computing, RSE, music and maths. The full governing body received Ofsted Training on the new framework (effective from September 2019) and were given presentations from subject leaders on PE, Computing, EAL, Science, Pupil Premium, Geography and Music. We are excited to be embarking on a new schedule of Learning Walks next year.

This year has seen many successes for both the Infant and the Junior schools. We are proud of the children for their excellent results in many extra-curricular competitions and tournaments, including chess, dance, debating, drama, maths, music, singing, science and showcased their many talents and fantastic pieces of work at their Open Evenings. We would like to thank the staff who support these activities, often giving up their own time during evenings or at the weekend.

We would like to wish goodbye and good luck to the Year 6 children in their future endeavors, and to the Nursery children who are going to Reception at other schools.

Strategy Committee

The Strategy Committee meets to develop and review the school development plans. We also review the risks across each area of the school and discuss how we are monitoring and managing these risks.

Communication and Community Engagement Committee

The committee monitors the effectiveness of the school websites and has confirmed that we are still GDPR compliant across the schools. We monitor attendance figures and communication closely and have ensured that British Values such as democracy and tolerance are at the heart of our school.

Both schools are incredibly lucky to have such vibrant and active Parent's Associations. In the Infants we all enjoyed a wonderful Summer Fair, Mother's and Father's Day gifts, cake and lolly sales; in the Juniors the children had a Winter Fair, a "Summertime Ball" and a pyjama party. The staff and governors would like to thank them for all their hard work planning these events, raising much-needed funds.

The governors would like to thank all staff that recently led the successful residential trips to Moat Mount in the Infants and Oslington Bay in the Juniors. We are sure that some wonderful memories and friendships were made. The staff who accompany the children give up their personal time to ensure that the children can have these enriching experiences. A thank you also goes to staff that stay behind to look after the rest of the school.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee has had a busy year. Staff wellbeing has been a continued focus for the committee this year. We have also reviewed the appraisal policy, the pay policy, the recruitment and retention policy, the code of conduct for staff as well as for governors to make sure that they are still fit for purpose, and discussed the staff structures of both schools. We also organized training on Head Teacher Performance Reviews. We say goodbye and thank you to staff who are leaving us at the end of this academic year.

Safeguarding and Personal Development Committee

The Safeguarding Committee has met three times this academic year. We have ensured policies are up to date, and that consistent, effective safeguarding procedures are in place for families, pupils and staff.

We are diligent in challenging the Head Teachers to ensure the schools are following all guidelines. Safeguarding Governors conducted walks around both schools and this gave them opportunity to ask students and teachers about how they stay safe at school. We would like to thank parents and carers for adhering to the guidelines laid out and thus helping to make our school a safe, happy place for our children.

Additional learning walks took place with Barnet reviewers who came to the Infants to conduct a SEN review. They looked at children's books and spoke with children and staff. The review was overwhelmingly positive; it said that the Inclusion Leaders' knowledge and passion was evident and teachers have extensive knowledge of their pupils, and their pupil's needs.

If you do ever have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact our designated safeguarding leads; Mrs. McCafferty in the Infant School and Ms. Aylen in the Junior School.

Premises and Health and Safety Committee

The committee has been busy liaising with Barnet council to see where further improvements can be made to the school infrastructure. Some toilet renovations have taken place with the financial help of the PA.

We would like to thank our caretakers James and Rupert for all their diligent and tireless work to maintain our school premises. We will continue to put pressure on Barnet for further upgrades to the infrastructure of both schools going forward.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has been busy reviewing the budgets and spending. We also reviewed with both Head Teachers new options for several school contracts. We are very conscious that money is tight and always strive to achieve the best value for money.

Chair of Governors:

Laura Pincus

Contact:

chair@brooklandjnr.barnetmail.net

or chair@brooklandinf.barnetmail.net