



# Brookland Junior School and Brookland Infant and Nursery School Governing Body



*Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence*

**A**s we approach the end of the school year the governors would like to take this opportunity to share a few things with our community and wish you all a lovely summer break. We would also like to thank all Brookland staff and families for their support throughout the school year. It certainly hasn't been "business as usual", however, we have innovated, responded quickly to ever-changing guidelines, and worked in new ways to ensure that the children were safe and had the best possible experience at school.

The governors are always striving to make our two "Outstanding" schools even better. The Governing Body works very closely with the Headteachers 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. We share and celebrate our differences!

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 welcomed Co-opted Governor Joshua Hamerton (who is a former pupil!) as well as elected Parent Governor, Nick Astaire. We also welcomed Daniella Jackson as an Associate Member. Tim Jackson has become an Associate Member (from Co-opted) and Katie Attwood has become a Co-opted governor (from Associate). Jenny Catley was reappointed as Staff Governor and Farnoush Bikdeli was reappointed as a Co-opted Governor. We say goodbye to Shiv Haria-Shah who will stand down from the governing body at the end of term; we wish his new business every success. We are extremely grateful to all governors for their service.

## Strategy Committee

The Strategy Committee is made up of the committee chairs and both Headteachers. We help to develop and review the school development plans. We also review risks across each area of the school and discussed how we are monitoring and managing these risks. The committee made the decision to start using the Governor Hub platform to enable more efficient communication between all governors, especially when working remotely.

## Curriculum Committee

In the Curriculum Committee, governors monitor teaching and learning through analysing data, conversations with both Headteachers, staff governors and feedback from child's voice meetings (Infants) and whole school meetings (Juniors), looking at children's work and through our subject link visits with subject leaders.

The focus for this year was on the "Recovery" curriculum, and how to ensure children were school-ready again, after most of them were learning from home last year. The new PSHE schemes and curriculums were fundamental in helping children to feel happy and safe at school.

The committee has discussed assessment, target setting and policies on Teaching and Learning, Science, Art, DT and Religious Education. We were given remote presentations on Remote Learning, Online Safety, Maths, English and the new EYFS Curriculum (for Nursery and Reception). We are excited to hopefully resume our schedule of in-person Learning Walks next year.

Despite the challenges created by restrictions, both the Infant and the Junior schools have persisted to provide a broad curriculum for the Children in a safe way, including charity days, football and netball matches with other schools, Arts Week, remote Music Festivals and Sports Days. We would like to thank the staff who support these activities.

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.

We would like to say goodbye to the Nursery and Y2 children who are going other schools, and good luck to the Year 6 children in their new secondary schools.

## Communication and Community Engagement Committee

The committee monitors the effectiveness of the school websites and ensures that we are GDPR compliant across the schools. We monitor attendance figures and communication closely and ensure that British Values such as democracy and tolerance are at the heart of our school. Other areas of focus include our admission policies, Parent View and the challenges of parental engagement due to the pandemic.

Both schools are incredibly lucky to have such vibrant and active Parent's Associations. The staff and governors would like to thank them for all their hard work planning these events, raising much-needed funds, especially under such difficult circumstances.

The governors would like to thank all staff that recently led the successful trips to Moat Mount in the Infants and Osmington 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

This year we further increased our focus on wellbeing due to the unique pressures and risks that the pandemic created for staff. We have reviewed the Mental Health and Wellbeing policy, the Recruitment Policy (especially with a view to Brexit), the Pay policy, continued professional development of staff and governors, and discussed the staffing structures of both schools. We also reviewed and updated the Code of Conduct for staff as well as the one for governors to make sure that they are still fit for purpose, and updated information for new governors. Both headteachers underwent statutory performance management.

We say goodbye and thank you to staff who are leaving us at the end of this academic year and wish them well in their new endeavors.

## Safeguarding and Personal Development Committee

The Safeguarding Committee is responsible for ensuring that all policies, procedures and practices regarding safeguarding our pupils, families and staff are kept up to date and followed. We are diligent in challenging the Headteachers to ensure the schools are following all guidelines. Areas we monitor include anti-bullying, pupil premium, online safety, and SEN and Inclusions. Online safety policies were updated to include remote learning.

This year the challenges of the pandemic dominated our agenda, and the wellbeing of the children and staff was a major priority. Our safeguarding governor continued to conduct remote visits to ensure safeguarding practices and records remained robust.

We would like to thank parents and carers for adhering to guidelines introduced for this year and thus helping to make our schools a safe, happy place for our children.

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

## Premises and Health and Safety Committee

In addition to undertaking our usual site walks and policy monitoring, the committee is delighted that we were able to orchestrate the complete rebuilding of the Junior School swimming pool. This was made possible by the persistence and dedication of the Premises Committee Chair, Tim Jackson, and our new partner, Swim Tank. We are now able to provide a vastly improved facility, both to Brookland children as well as the wider community.

The demolition process has also just begun on the Y2 block, which will be replaced with an eco-friendly building over the next few months.

The committee will continue to work with Barnet council to make funds available for future projects. We would like to thank our caretakers James Flanagan and Rupert Mace for their diligent and tireless work to maintain our school premises on a very tight budget.

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee meets twice a term and has the important responsibility of making sure that the money allocated to us by the government is used wisely and provides assurance to Barnet Council that secure financial management is in place. We ensure that the money is being spent on resources that add value to the children's learning and personal development, make savings where possible and account for every penny. We look at the budgets, pupil premium spending and examine costs and contracts. It has been a year of financial turmoil and we have had to adapt to many changes. In addition to managing both schools budgets, we have financed laptops and IT equipment and additional cleaning costs, as well as cover for staff to keep both schools open and running.

We would especially like to thank parents for their generous voluntary contributions.

## Chair of Governors:

Laura Pincus

## Contact:

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