



Brookland School Governing Body Newsletter

January 09

Dear Parents/Carers

Our new governing body has been in place now for just over a term. There have been a number of changes, both in personnel and the way we are structured, so we thought it was timely to issue what is intended to be a regular newsletter, to provide you with a list of members, a broad overview of our role and to update you on the particular issues we have been dealing with lately.

Overview

The role of the governing body is to support the head teachers and staff in ensuring that all the children receive a high standard of education in a supportive environment. In practical terms this means making decisions with regard to a wide range of policies and tracking the progress and direction taken by the schools. The full governing body meets twice a term; in addition to which all governors are attached to a number of subcommittees which meet one or more times a year.

The governing body is composed of the head teachers, staff governors, parent governors, Local Authority governors and community governors. Please see the table for further information on committee members.

The day to day running of the schools is the responsibility of the head teachers and should you have any suggestions or concerns they should first be discussed with your child's class teacher or the head teacher herself, as appropriate. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive then you could contact Sarah Gibbins, the Chair of Governors.

Current Issues

As many of you will be aware the Infant and Nursery School has just received an OFSTED report of which staff, pupils, parents and governors can all be proud. We are sure you will join us in thanking Mrs Dickinson and her staff for all their hard work in making Brookland Infant and Nursery School such a positive, caring environment in which to learn.

After a lot of hard work from Finance Committee and staff, both the infant and nursery school and the junior school were proud to have met the mandatory Financial Management Standards in Schools (FMSiS), introduced nationally to ensure high quality financial management.

The closure of the After School Club last term has prompted a search for a suitable replacement; one which offers quality, affordable childcare. Feedback from you has also highlighted a demand for a flexible service. From after the February half-term we hope to have our new after school provider in place.

The provision for school dinners is currently up for tender and a small working party of governors and the head teachers is currently working on this. One possibility is a consortium with other local schools in order to secure best value and continued high quality provision. Your views would be welcome.

Another issue under review is that of security. This is a complicated area as our site is not self contained and has many possible points of entry and exit; as have the buildings. Therefore it is taking some time to properly investigate how best to secure it. As a starting point it has now been

agreed that there will be an entry phone system with a visual display unit on the bottom and top gates of the infant and nursery school and cameras to be added to the system the junior school already has in place.

Communicating with parents

In future, an update on the work of the governing body will be put on the school websites at the beginning of each term and a link included on the head teachers’ regular letters sent home with children.

In previous years the governing body was required to produce a lengthy annual report to parents and also held an annual meeting to keep parents informed about the schools’ progress. The law then changed, and now the government requires us instead to produce an annual School Profile, which is much shorter and is available online. It is also viewable via the school websites. (Go to www.brooklandinf.barnet.lgfl.net, click on “our school” which will then bring up the option of “school profile”.)

If you would like more information about these or other issues under discussion, do look at the minutes of the governors’ meetings which are posted outside the infant and nursery head teacher’s door, on the governing body notice board in the junior dining hall or speak to a school governor.

Governors:		
Erach Amaria	LA	New governor, Jan 2009
Rachel Beard	Community	Former Pupil
Laura Bier	Parent (Infant)	Daughter in reception, son in year 3
Jonathan Black	Parent (Infant)	Son in year 2, son in year 4
Heather Blackmore	Head Teacher (Junior)	
Ziz Chater	Teaching Staff (Infant)	Also a parent with a daughter in year 5
Sam Clarke	Community	Also a parent with daughters in year 3 and 5
Shirley Dickinson	Head Teacher (Infant)	
Sara Gibbins	Parent (Junior)	Son in year 3, daughter in year 5
Simon Greenhouse	Support Staff (Junior)	
Katie Kraiss	Teaching Staff (Junior)	
Linda Lewis	Community	Former parent at Brookland
John Marshall	LA	
Kathy McGuirk	LA	New governor, Jan 2009. Former pupil
Gavin Millar	Parent (Junior)	Daughter in year 4, daughter in year 6
Phil Mulvihill	Support Staff (Infant)	
Zoë Rodwell	Parent (Infant)	Sons in year 2
Hilary Solomon	Parent (Junior)	Son in year 5
Leslie Sussman	LA	

A list of the committee members and their responsibilities can be found as an extra page of this letter on the school websites and on Governors’ noticeboards.

Communication Committee:	
Jonathan Black	Linda Lewis
Heather Blackmore	Zoë Rodwell (Chair)
Shirley Dickinson	
Curriculum Committee:	
Rachel Beard	Shirley Dickinson
Laura Bier	Gavin Millar
Heather Blackmore	Zoë Rodwell
Ziz Chater	Hilary Solomon
Finance Committee:	
Heather Blackmore	Sara Gibbins
Sam Clarke (Chair)	Gavin Millar
Shirley Dickinson	Leslie Sussman
Head Teacher Performance Review Committee:	
Sara Gibbins	Hilary Solomon
Laura Bier	
Personnel Committee:	
Laura Bier	Heather Blackmore
Jonathan Black	Shirley Dickinson
Premises and Health & Safety Committee:	
Katie Kraiss	Shirley Dickinson
Heather Blackmore	Simon Greenhouse (Chair)
Sam Clarke	Phil Mulvihill
Safeguarding and Personal Development Committee:	
Heather Blackmore	Zoë Rodwell
Shirley Dickinson	Hilary Solomon
Chair:	
Sara Gibbins	
Vice Chair:	
Hilary Solomon	
Curriculum/Areas of Learning Link Governors:	
Literacy:	Zoë Rodwell
Numeracy:	Rachel Beard
ICT:	Laura Bier
	Gavin Millar
Foundation Stage:	Ziz Chater
	Hilary Solomon
Educational Visits Governor:	
Sam Clarke	
Training and Development Link Governors:	
Laura Bier	Linda Lewis
Head Teacher Performance Management Review Appeal Officer:	
Sam Clarke	
Head Teacher Performance Management Review Moderating Governor:	
Jonathan Black	
SEN, Inclusion and Disability Link Governor:	
Zoë Rodwell	Hilary Solomon