



Brookland Infant & Nursery School and Junior School Governing Body

Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence

As the school year ends, the Governors would like to wish you all a lovely summer break and to thank all Brookland staff and families for your support this year. The Governing Body works closely with both Headteachers and staff to ensure that the children are safe and individual needs are met. We are a critical friend, we provide strategic direction, and we ensure accountability. Contact our Chair, Laura Pincus, on chair@brooklandinf.barnetmail.net or chair@brooklandjnr.barnetmail.net.

Governor News

We welcomed new governors Gabi Symons, a Junior School teacher, David Lee, Assistant Headteacher at Christ College, and Lucy Tobin, a Local Authority governor appointed by Barnet who is also a parent of two Brookland pupils. We say a grateful goodbye to Carol Frankl, thanking her for many years of advice, and for remaining committed to the board long after she moved to Cambridge.

Curriculum

Governors focused on teaching and learning via subject link visits, pupil and staff feedback, a Curriculum Tea, and 'learning walks' which involved talking to pupils and staff engaged in Geography and Art. We reviewed school policies to ensure effective learning, assessment and embedding of the curriculum, including Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education. A group of Governors also met with the Infant school's Ofsted inspectors.

Finance

This committee met twice each term to ensure that money allocated to both Schools by the Government is used wisely, and to assure Barnet that secure financial management is in place. To that end, this year we scrutinised school budgets, pupil premium spending, and contract tenders, making savings where possible. We would like to thank parents for their generous voluntary contributions. Brookland's allocated funds are being spent on resources that add value to the children's learning and

personal development.

The Schools have also faced the national challenge of rising bills, including higher staff and energy costs. While many schools consequently have a budget deficit, Brookland ends the financial year with very small contingencies.

Personnel

This year, parent governor Jeff Harris was elected as new chair of the committee. We updated the Schools' policies on pay, and on parental, adoption, and bereavement leave. We also reviewed the staff code of conduct, the Schools' recruitment policies, and wellbeing policy. Governors held annual statutory performance reviews and mid-reviews with the Infant and Junior School headteachers. We thank the staff members who are leaving us at the end of this academic year, and wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

Safeguarding

We reviewed all policies relating to keeping children safe in school, including the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, the Attendance Policy and the Equalities Policy, this year. Safeguarding 'link visits' each term assured us that both schools were managing concerns and following proper reporting procedures. Time spent in school showed governors that the children feel safe at Brookland: even the very youngest know where to go if they have any worries. The Infant School's Ofsted inspectors confirmed this, stating: "Pupils are kept safe.

"They know there are lots of trusted adults who look after them."

During termly safeguarding committee meetings, we also reviewed the Schools' external lettings policy to ensure staff running these clubs have relevant safeguarding training, and discussed digital filtering and monitoring to ensure that children remain safe online whilst in the classroom.

Premises

We reviewed policies relating to premises management and to hosting visitors on site, as well as continuing to push for the installation of a long-awaited heat pump system. We supported the Schools during the power issues faced early on in the calendar year, and are doing so on planned roof repair works to some classrooms this summer. We would like to thank our caretaker, James Flanagan, for his tireless work all year, and wish his broken leg a speedy recovery.

Strategy

This committee – which consists of committee chairs and both Headteachers - reviewed the Schools' development plans, assessed and monitored risks, and reviewed our self-evaluation audit and training needs. We also spoke to Ofsted inspectors during their recent visit to the Infant School. Next year, our priorities are to improve Governor subject links, and to have a renewed focus on continuing professional development.