

Governor Newsletter



Chair's remarks

Dear Fairfield families and community.

With the academic year close to an end, in this summer newsletter members of the Governing Body provide an overview of Governor's work during what has been a fabulous year for Fairfield Primary School. We hope this gives you an interesting insight into the role we carry out at the school. One of the Governing Body's biggest successes has been the selection of Mr Steele as Head Teacher. He has already made an extremely positive impact on pupil progress, school culture and extra-curricular activities. We would like to thank him and his staff for their passion, hard work and dedication to our children this year.

Thanks to all of you who completed Ofsted's Parent View (111 parents in total), the results were extremely positive. The Governing Body is keen to understand and take account of parents' views and your participation does make a difference: for example, following strong feedback from the school parent questionnaire, we agreed as a governing body to change the lunch provider.

Thanks also to the PTA, who through their hard work and your generosity have provided a superb climbing equipment for the children in the KS1 and KS2 yards. They are currently looking for new recruits. Volunteer your time if you can: funding cuts mean the school simply does not have the budget to invest in outdoor play equipment. The efforts of the PTA are invaluable in ensuring this provision, which gives our children such joy, continues.

As ever, if you have any governance related queries, please contact me on chair@fairfieldprimary.co.uk

Have a wonderful summer.

Vicky Bennett

Chair of Governors

OFSTED

As you will be aware, Ofsted visited the school recently. Their report is due imminently and Mr Steele will be reporting on this in due course. Thanks to the staff who together with the governors worked tirelessly to fully support the school throughout the inspection and we are looking forward to the report.

Governor Awards

Our favourite part of the year, when the Governing Body presents an assembly to the whole school and gives awards for fantastic effort during the year. We don't just focus on academic and sporting success. We look to reward those children who make school life wonderful by caring for their friends, supporting the school community or just being a joy to have in class. This will be on Wednesday 18th July.

School Improvement Plan

It's an exciting time as the school and Mr Steele and the Governing Body are working on the School Improvement Plan (SIP) which will cover the next three years. This sets out the school's focus areas and how they will be developed. It's for the Governing Body to confirm that the SIP drives the vision of producing 'academic excellence', 'lifelong learners' in a safe and nurturing environment'. The Governing Body then monitors progress on a termly basis.



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Standards Committee

The Standards Committee is a sub-group of the Local Governing Board, Andy Cooney is the chair and they meet 4 times per year.

Key areas the committee cover:

- Monitor and evaluate the curriculum
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of teaching on rates of pupil progress
- Monitor and evaluate the rates of progress and standards of achievement by pupils
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of the improvement plans
- Monitor and evaluate the provision for all groups of vulnerable children
- Ensure that the requirements of children with special needs are met

The committee use Target Tracker (a data programme) to monitor progress and achievement of student cohorts and of key groups of children, supported by visits to school to focus their discussions. Target Tracker is a way to check the performance data to ensure that the changes the school are making are delivering improvement.

As well as the focus on academic excellence we want to make sure children are safe and happy. The staff and governors take the safety issue very seriously, we also see lots of evidence that the majority of children are happy, it's more difficult to measure than academic performance!

Resources Committee

The Resources Committee is an important part of school governance, chaired by Oliver Nicols. Working on behalf of the Governing Body, it has three main functions: 1) to recommend the annual school budget to the Trustees and then monitor the spends against the budget; 2) to support the maintenance and development of the buildings and grounds, including health, safety and security of the children; 3) to review staffing and staffing matters with the Head Teacher including staff pay.

The school has 3 main buildings, surrounding playgrounds and the school field; all of which must be maintained to a high standard to ensure the safety of our children – all aspects of building safety are considered by the committee ranging from fire alarm maintenance and fire safety to cleaning and heating.

Financially, the school continues to be very well organised and efficient in its use of funds. The committee works closely with the School Business Manager who provides monthly updates on spends against budget, which the committee reviews against budget, questioning any spending deviations.

From a staffing perspective, the committee must ensure that the school is staffed sufficiently to fulfil the school's improvement plan and the effective operation of the school. This is done through discussion and reports from the headteacher. Staff appraisal, pay and recruitment procedures are all carefully monitored to ensure best practice.

