

# Federation of Boldmere Schools Governor Update | Autumn Term 2023

## Message from the Governors

Welcome to our Autumn Term Governor Newsletter and a very warm welcome from all of the Governors to our new parents and children who have joined the Boldmere School family.

*As governors we work to support Boldmere School's vision, which is: **to empower all children to embrace learning; achieve their personal best; and build their social, emotional and physical wellbeing.***

The governors provide strategic oversight of the school, through its governing board meetings, but also through our specific committees covering finance, facilities, premises, health & safety (FFPH&S) along with education & standards (E&S). All minutes of these meetings, along with other information, are available in the governors' area of the [school website](#).

In addition we have a Parent Representative Body which allows groups of parents from each year group to feed directly to the senior leadership and to the governors.

We all look forward to meeting you at the many school events.

## Full Governing Board and FFPH&S / E & S Committee Meeting Dates 2023 / 2024

Welcome to our Autumn Term Governor Newsletter.

The dates of the meetings for the academic school year 2023/2024 are as follows:

Wednesday	27/09/2023	4pm	Full Governing Board meeting
Friday	10/11/2023	8am	E&S Committee Followed by termly governor visit
Wednesday	15/11/2023	8am	FFPH&S Committee
Wednesday	13/12/2023	4pm	Full Governing Board meeting
Wednesday	07/02/2024	8am	FFPH&S Committee
Wednesday	06/03/2024	8am	E&S Committee Followed by termly governor visit
Wednesday	20/03/2024	8am	FFPHS Committee (Budget setting)
Wednesday	01/05/2024	4pm	Full Governing Board meeting
Wednesday	12/06/2024	8am	FFPHS Committee
Wednesday	26/06/2024	8am	E&S Committee Followed by termly governor visit
Wednesday	10/07/2024	4pm	Full Governing Board meeting

## Governor Visit Report by Laura Shergold (Parent Governor)

**Previous success** :- As identified good practice by governors, in May of this year I visited the Junior School when the Year 6 pupils were sitting their Key Stage 2 SATs. I was there to witness the test papers being taken out of storage and opened but I was also shown round the areas of the school where the tests were taking place. What struck me straight away was how calm the environment had been made for all the children sitting the SATS. The school had done a brilliant job of utilising the classrooms and the breakout area for any students who were sitting their test on a 1:1 basis. The teachers provided a breakfast club for pupils beforehand and I even spotted some sweet treats for children to enjoy once they had finished their tests. A massive well done to staff to creating such a calming atmosphere and to students for all their hard work and efforts. Whole school exit data for the Federation continues to be above local and national averages.



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### Finance Update

The recent issues at Birmingham City Council have caused much concern for the school. However, as a statutory service, we should not be impacted by the current issues. That said, there is still risk to non-statutory services and therefore the governors have been in constant dialogue with the relevant departments to ensure we are aware of any changes/updates.

Earlier this year we informed you of the budget issues the school was facing in the financial crisis. These measures were outlined in our financial update newsletter. Thank you to all of those who have supported the school, by fundraising, or through other activities.

The cost of living crisis is still impacting many areas of society and the school is no exception. There has been no additional money for the school to cope with inflation or additional energy costs, therefore we have had to be exceptionally careful with the finances we have. We thank you for your understanding.

The governing board would also like to say a massive thanks to our amazing PTA who continue to support school funds year on year, through the organisation of our wonderful community events.

### Education and Standards Committee Update

The Education Committee has continued to focus on ensuring that every child receives the best quality of education. Recent meetings have seen us look at and discuss;

- Head of School reports focussing on teaching and learning
- Pupil progress and attendance data
- The school improvement plan and the targets within it
- Our SEND and Boldmere inclusion base provision and development
- Pupil and sports premium funding
- Staff and student mental health and welfare and associated policies

We carry out regular school visits which focus on a particular aspect for each visit. The school visits give the Governors an opportunity to see everything that we discuss in the meetings taking place in the day to day lives of the pupils.

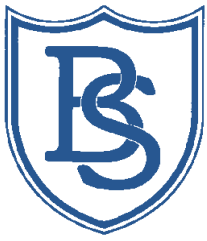
We also have the opportunity to receive presentations from curriculum leaders on their subject areas, so that we have a clearer understanding of the curriculum provision that is offered across the Federation of Boldmere Schools.

### The role of School Governors

A common question asked of governors is 'what is your role?'. The purpose of the governing body is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance. Specifically, governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

The governors are not involved in the day to day running of the school, and the teaching staff should be the first point of contact for any issues. More information can be found at [www.boldmere.bham.sch.uk](http://www.boldmere.bham.sch.uk)



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### Parents Representative Groups Update

The Parent Representative Body has been set up to encourage dialogue between parents, the senior leadership team and governors. The group has been going strong for 18 months now, and has proven successful in discussing any issues.

The group meets with school leaders on a half termly basis. During the first parent representative meeting later this half-term we will establish any vacancies and invite any expressions of interest to ensure sufficient representation for all classes wherever possible.

**The continued dialogue is essential for our governing board as this acts as another important mechanism for further school improvement priorities.**

### Get in touch

The governors welcome feedback and questions from all parents/carers and stakeholders in the wonderful Boldmere community.

Please contact either of the school offices or email [enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk) marking the email for the attention of the FGB.