

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the second newsletter from the Governing Board of Parklands Junior School.

There have been some significant changes in Governance since the last newsletter, as a result of implementing the Governing Board Action Plan, which has been drawn up to address the issues raised in October's Ofsted inspection.

PARKLANDS JUNIOR SCHOOL



Chair's Message

When I last wrote to you, I communicated the School's vision (shown over page) and the Governing Board's role in holding senior leaders to account for the School's performance. In this newsletter, I want to tell you about the changes that have taken place to enable the Governing Board to be more effective in undertaking its core role (again, shown over page).

Following the Ofsted inspection in October, the Board has reduced its number from fourteen to nine and recruited new governors with the skills necessary to deliver effective governance.

The Board now comprises people with experience in project management, finance, business, human resources and teaching / learning. I would urge you to look at the governors section of the School's website, where you will find a biography for each Governor, as well as the specific responsibilities they have taken on.

The new Board comprises a smaller number of governors than before, but with every Governor required to make a meaningful contribution towards good governance and engaging with the work of the School.

Having recruited individuals with a broad range of relevant skills and experience, governors have been allocated to either the Leadership and Management Committee or the Teaching and Standards Committee. The committees are responsible for undertaking the more detailed aspects of governance and in particular, evaluation of the School's performance against its Action Plan. This is an important role and addresses feedback from the recent HMI inspection.

Committees will report back to the Governing Board at its termly meetings, with the Board reviewing and approving recommendations from committees and identifying further areas for committee consideration. The Board will also focus on addressing and evaluating issues relating to whole school strategy.

Whilst the Board has a considerable number of new Governors, I believe it has the right skills to be effective and I am pleased that the recent HMI inspection noted that, "governance is improving rapidly" and that, "leaders and governors have set high expectations for both staff and pupils".

Of course, the above means little if it does not benefit the educational achievement of our children. Therefore, whilst I acknowledge that Governors, leaders and staff still have plenty of work to do, I am pleased that HMI have noted that, "the rate of pupils progress has increased across the School".

Keith Butcher, Chair of Governors, Parklands Junior School.

Vision Statement – Parklands Junior School Governing Board

The Governing Board of Parklands Junior School believes in creating a culture of high expectation, ambition and openness amongst all members of the school community.

We aim to instil a desire for constant improvement amongst ourselves, teachers and children and deliver inspired teaching that encourages positive attitudes towards lifelong learning.

We want our children to feel valued and confident as individuals and ensure they feel supported, safe and cared for in our School. We aim that children leave Parklands Junior School with a clear sense of responsibility and independence and an understanding of the importance of community and how their behaviour impacts upon others.

We seek to inspire success in our children by creating rounded individuals who seek out lifelong opportunities to learn in order to be the best they can be.

The role of the Governing Board is to:

- Ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the School are clearly defined;
- Ensure that the Head Teacher performs his or her responsibilities for the educational performance of the School;
- Ensure the sound, proper and effective use of the School's financial resources.

To do this effectively, the Board meet at least once per term to discuss whole School issues and progress against objectives and to receive feedback from the two sub-Committees - Leadership & Management and Teaching & Standards.

Every Governor is required to attend one of two formal visit days held each year. These principally allow Governors to:

- Appreciate and understand the work of the staff and how the pupils are learning.
- Be aware of the response of pupils to their work and check that the pupils are aware of what they are learning.
- Understand resource issues facing the School.

Visits also allow those Governors with specific remits – such as safeguarding and special educational needs, to ensure the School is complying with its statutory duties.