

Governor Update

News for parents and carers from your governing body

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year!

The governors would like to welcome all new parents, teachers and other staff to the Oxford Gardens Primary School community. We also welcome back all of our existing families, teachers and staff. It is always special to come back into school after the summer holiday, when the school comes together again with renewed energy, new ideas and continued enthusiasm.

This year, coming back together feels particularly poignant as our community continues to live with the tragedy of Grenfell Tower and the loss of a pupil and his family. The governors are extremely grateful for the extra projects and activities that the school has organised and the incredible generosity of individuals and organisations to support the healing of the school community.

Keeping you informed

In the last parent questionnaire, parents told us that there was not enough information about the school's governors, what the Governing Body does, and the role of the Governing Body. We want to make sure that parents and carers understand the role of the governors.

As well as updating the governor information on the website, the Governing Body will be sending out a termly newsletter to keep you up-to-date with the role, activities and impact of your school Governing Body. For more information, and to see photos of all of the school governors, visit the governance section of the school website.

Visit the governor section on the Oxford Gardens website:

<http://www.oxfordgardens.rbkc.sch.uk/members-of-governing-body/>

What is a school governor?

School governors are volunteers who work, as part of the Governing Body, with the Head Teacher to manage the school, checking that the policies and curriculum meet the current requirements, reviewing school finances and premises, ensuring that the school keeps children safe.

It is the role of the governors to hold the school to account.

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Christine Blewitt

DEPUTY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Peter Blagg

LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR

Tim Jones

CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS

Samantha Dossetter

PARENT GOVERNORS

Sheraine Williams

Pippa Jones

Vacancy

STAFF GOVERNORS

Narjis Trabelsi

Tara Swan

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS

Farah Sayeed

Mary Radford

Warren Boutcher

David O'Leary

Tara Swan

Two vacancies

What are the key areas of focus for the governing body?

The governors look at the School Improvement Plan at each meeting (<http://www.oxfordgardens.rbkc.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/School-Improvement-Plan-2017-2018.pdf>) which the Head Teachers update every half term. This identifies key areas for focus and the governors discuss the progress and any areas that need additional or different work or have been particularly successful, along with reasons why.

We also look at any changes in education and issues that the school may be experiencing, such as the proposed changes in school finance.

This year we expect our OFSTED inspection. We encourage parents to complete Parent View online so we can hear your feedback on the school.

The next Full Governing Body meeting is on Thursday 16th November.

Governor Q&A

What training do governors have?

Although governors do not have to be trained before they start the role, it is really important that they attend training sessions regularly to build knowledge and confidence and stay up-to-date. RBKC provides free sessions during the day, evening and weekends on a range of areas, including training for new governors, data, safeguarding and p

GOVERNING BODY COMMITTEES

The Governing Body has separate committees that meet to discuss and agree and monitor strategies for different areas. These are:

- Finance and Premises Committee
- Attainment and Progress Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Pay Committee
- Different governors serve on the committees and each committee meets at least once a term. As part of the meetings governors may sit in on lessons, listen to presentations on areas that the school is focusing on, such as improving reading, or visit school premises.

HOW TO BECOME A GOVERNOR

Parent governors are nominated by other parents (or themselves). If more nominations are received than governors required, then parents will vote. We currently have a vacancy for one parent governor. We will send a letter to all parents when nominations open and will hold drop in question and answer sessions so that parents can find out more. Parent governors do not need to have any particular experience but must be able to attend 1-2 meetings a term in school hours, attend training and spend time reading papers for the meetings.

Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body for their skills or experience. If you know somebody who is interested, please let the school office know and they can put you in contact with the Chair or another governor.

Staff governors are nominated and voted for by staff.

Local Authority governors are appointed by RBKC.

Each governor serves a 4 year term.