

Governor Update

News for parents and carers from your Governing Body

Summer term update

We are into our final term of the school year already and the governors have met on a number of occasions, both in committees and in full Governing Body meetings. In preparation for an OFSTED visit, which we expect in the next 12 months, a group of governors has started to meet regularly with Miss Cooper and Mrs Silver to review progress against OFSTED targets. Although we look at the school improvement plan at every meeting, this allows us to look at the broader areas of what the school is providing for its pupils and whether there are any

additional areas that we feel we could support.
Data



We have been impressed to see how the school uses data to understand how pupils are progressing and to see how teachers, learning mentors and teaching assistants are supporting smaller groups of children to help them achieve their targets. We know that the school continues to work hard on

improving attendance. Most children have good attendance but there is a pattern between lower than expected attendance and children not achieving the targets that they are capable of meeting.

School Meals

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 and supporting.

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

GOVERNING BODY COMMITTEES

The Governing Body has separate committees that meet to discuss and agree and monitor strategies for different areas. Each committee meets termly, except the finance committee which meets every half term. The committees are:

- Finance and Premises Committee
- Attainment and Progress Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Pay Committee

The governors have received reports about school meals and support the leadership team’s efforts to ensure that these return to the higher quality that all expect.

New Behaviour Policy

We have been delighted to see and hear from pupils, staff and parents how the new behaviour policy has become a core part of school life, and how well it is understood. It’s wonderful to see the excitement of pupils telling us that they’ve stayed on green, or they’ve achieved silver or gold. We congratulate the staff on the successful implementation of this.

Keeping children safe

At a full Governing Body meeting, the governors received a presentation on safeguarding from the safeguarding lead, Amy Moore. This allowed us to focus on this area to ensure that we were clear that the school is keeping your children safe. Governors had approved the introduction of the new signing-in system, which Sarah Cooper had explained would provide a central, easily accessible, register of everyone on the school premises. We know it is taking a bit of time to get used to and are very grateful to the office staff for their work to make this a success!

New Governor Welcome

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.

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 GOVERNOR

Narjis Trabelsi

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS

Jake Butterworth

David O’Leary

Mary Radford

Farah Sayeed

Tara Swan

Warren Boutcher

We are delighted to welcome Jake Butterworth as a new co-opted Governor. Jake is very familiar with schools in Kensington and Chelsea and surrounding areas in his role as Prevent Manager for Schools and colleges in the bi-borough - RBKC and Hammersmith & Fulham.

About your governors

Look at the OGPS website for photos and information on all of your governors. The website also includes information required by OFSTED such as governor attendance at meetings. A governor usually attends the parent forums that Miss Cooper runs each term.

Committee Focus:

Attainment and Progress Committee

The Attainment and Progress Committee meets every term to review how successfully the school is delivering the curriculum and ensuring children make expected progress. At a recent meeting, governors received a presentation on the latest set of performance data, called Assess School Performance, which is a national set of data that makes comparisons between schools and children. The data shows that Oxford Gardens children are achieving high results in maths, but that reading is lower than we expect. The governors have been monitoring how the school is working to improve achievement in reading, and are confident that the school has been working on a number of strategies to support pupils' reading. We continue to monitor this, through presentations from and meetings with the teaching staff, leadership team and data. The Attainment and Progress Committee, and the Link Governor for Standards across the Curriculum, receive regular updates on developments and progress.

The data also showed us how children who start their schooling at Oxford Gardens outperform their peers nationally in all areas by Year 6, this is also the case for the pupils who join OGPS at the start of Key Stage 2 but those who are at OGPS from Reception make the greatest progress. The school closely monitors how children joining after reception - particularly in Key Stage 2 - are making progress and provides additional support if required.

At the last meeting, the governors visited an IPC lesson in year 5. We were impressed by the broad areas covered by the children, and their knowledge and research skills, as they worked in teams to design their own Olympic Games. We heard from the IPC leaders in a later presentation how the teaching of Science, Geography, History and Art through the IPC allows children to see how the subjects are inter-related, helping them to gain a greater understanding. We noted how the class book is usually related to the IPC topic, giving further depth through reading and to their literacy.

Governor Q&A

Parent Governor: Sheraine Williams

How long have you been a governor?

I have been a governor for 3 years. This year in December will make it my fourth year, at which my full term as governor will come to an end.

What experience do you bring to the Governing Body?

I am a born and bred resident of North Kensington, a community activist, and well connected to the area. This allows me to alert the governing team to any changes or activities locally. I also bring diversity to the board, culturally, which I feel is very important considering the array of cultures in OGPS and the wider community.

What have you gained from being a governor?

Being a governor has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding into the hard work and organisation that goes

LINK GOVERNORS

The Oxford Gardens Governing Body has Link Governors to focus on each area of the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Link Governors meet with school leaders who are responsible for that area and report back to the Governing Body. This allows the governors to gain more information on each area of the SIP on behalf of the full Governing Body.

The Link Governors are:

- Safeguarding: Chris Blewett
- Leadership and Management: Chris Blewett
- Assessment: Warren Boutcher

- Standards across the Curriculum: Pippa Jones
- Early Years Provision: Sheraine Williams
- SEN: Tara Swan
- Attendance: Tara Swan

into running a school. It has also given me a platform to voice and contribute my ideas, any issues and give positive feedback to the leadership team. Being a governor has raised my confidence and given me tools to understand the education system.

You are the link governor for Early Years and Foundation Stage. What successes do you feel Oxford Gardens can celebrate?

OGPS is a great community. The Early Years and Foundation Stages are among the most important years of a child's life. It is important they have a great start. The school has worked really hard to master the levels of students.

What makes you proud to be a governor at Oxford Gardens?

OGPS is a gem in community. The children are amazing and I enjoy speaking to parents and staff. Although the challenges of Grenfell have affected our community, our school stands as a prominent anchor. We are all in the boat...sailing for our successes and we are here to support each other.

Governor Recruitment

The Governing Body is looking to recruit one parent governor and one co-opted Governor. If you know of anybody in the community with relevant knowledge, skills and/or experience and an interest in supporting Oxford Gardens, please ask them to contact the school about the role of co-opted Governor.

For the parent governor role, elections will be held this term.