

Prior Heath Infant School



Status confirmed 2010!

20 July 2014

Meeting of the Governing Body, 3 July 2014

School upgrades

The adventure playground has been refurbished and reopened. A new server and shutter for the dining room have been installed in preparation for the free school meals to start in September.

Classroom and IT Suite computers are being replaced or refurbished as part of our rolling programme to upgrade our IT equipment throughout the school.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body represents all the key stakeholders in the school, with members nominated by Surrey County Council, the parents and the staff, and additional members to represent the community. We are delighted to welcome Nick Chambers as a new community governor to join the team, following the resignation of Stephanie Dennis.

All the Governors now sign a Code of Practice which serves as a reminder of the objectives and expectations of the role. A copy is available from the office.

The Government has changed the rules for the constitution of governing bodies, with a mandatory requirement for the new rules to be applied by September 2015. This will include the need to ensure that the Governing Body members collectively have the skills necessary for the role.

Strategy and Planning

The Governing Body focuses each of its meetings on one or two facets of the Ofsted assessment criteria and one or two aspects of the School Development Plan, to ensure that plans are being effectively executed, and improvements achieved and sustained with the necessary level of evidence.

This term we looked at the latest criteria for 'Teaching and Learning' and 'Behaviour/Safeguarding' of the school to confirm our assessment and supporting evidence. Mrs McClelland briefed governors on safeguarding and child protection processes in the school.

Governors are undertaking learning walks to validate progress against SDP objectives. This term we looked at Maths, Science and Reading/Speaking/Listening and agreed the dates for visits for the updated focus points for the next academic year.

School Curriculum

Key Stage 1 results are being used to check the achievement and progress of every child in order to inform teaching priorities. The school plans to offer some advice to parents on making the best use of evening reading times to improve comprehension skills and raise attainment in reading.

The school website publishes all the statutory and other useful information online. This now includes the new Pupil Premium and Sports Funding statements, and the 'Local Offer' for Special Educational Needs. The school still plans to publish a prospectus as a marketing aid each year.

School Policies

The following policies were reviewed and adopted as part of the annual cycle.

- Grievance
- Child Protection
- E-Safety

- Home Learning

Parents are reminded that copies of all the school policies are available in the school office - this notification is a statutory requirement.

Budget

The school is operating in line with the budget for this year. Surplus funds have been committed for future capital/maintenance work. It is anticipated that once again there will be no increase in funding for the next academic year.

The Surrey Heath Learning Partnership offers the opportunity to pool resources and costs in a number of areas such as training, and also acts as a valuable networking aid for staff and Governors. Value for money and impact of training continues to be monitored by the school.

Academies

The Governors continue to carefully monitor local developments including proposals for multi-academy trusts, and are striving to ensure that a coherent plan for Surrey Heath emerges and that education remains at the heart of any partnership.

Meetings during the year

The Governing Body plans to meet on 25 November 2014.

A personal note

My sixth four-year term as a Governor comes to an end in August, and it is with some regret that I have decided not to seek reappointment. I have greatly enjoyed my time as a Governor at Prior Heath, and was most touched with the kind gifts from the school which will act as a powerful memento of the last 24 years. As I stated at the end of term special assembly, my role as Chair of Governors has been made much easier by the tremendous support I have received from my fellow Governors, from the staff and Head Teacher, and from the parents, both in way that they work with the school and their children, and in their support of the PTA, which continues to provide invaluable support for school projects. I will miss this activity very much.

Martyn Keates has kindly agreed to take on the role of Acting Chair from 1 September until the next meeting. I have every confidence that the School is well placed to continue to innovate and to provide the best possible education to all its pupils.

Thank you all very much.

Howard Mason, Chairman of Governors