

Prior Heath Infant School



Status confirmed 2010!

11 December 2015

Meeting of the Governing Body, 24th November 2015

The Governing Body

The Governing Body represents all the key stakeholders in the school, with members nominated by Surrey County Council, the parents, the staff and additional members to represent the community.

All the Governors sign a Code of Practice which serves as a reminder of the objectives and expectations of the role. In the interest of full transparency governor business interests and attendance are now published on the school website. Information about the makeup of the governing body and their roles can be found in the “our school” section on the school website.

As this was the first meeting of the Governing Body in the new school year, a number of appointments were made. Mr Keates was re-elected as Chair and Mr Heagren was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

Statutory and recommended specialist Governors were also appointed:

Child in Care/Child Carers/Pupil Premium/Child Protection	Mrs Dunnage
Link	Mrs Harris
Special Needs	Mrs Batley Hammond
Eco Schools	Mr Prior
Health & Safety	Mr Prior

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 Outcomes for Pupils and Learners where governors received and challenged data which confirmed learning continued at an outstanding level and the school had the ability to maintain and improve. Governors also looked at Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) and British values to confirm the supporting evidence.

Governors have been assigned to track specific School Development Plan targets when undertaking Learning Walks to validate progress against SDP objectives. Learning walks are planned to monitor the EYFS and Outdoor Learning, Literacy: Reading, Speaking and Listening, Science and SEN/Pupil Premium.

Governor's thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to help administer the pupil survey and talk to pupils about school and their learning .

On the recent PE learning walk Mr Keates reported that he had been impressed with the school development in this area and by the children who attended the cross schools multiskills competition whose behaviour and effort resulted in them winning the Cross Schools Multi-Skills Competition led by Miss Clarke. School governors, Mr Prior and Mrs Batley Hammond were equally impressed with the Science and SEN/Pupil Premium provision.

Governors have gained further awareness of child protection issues faced in schools and were assured of the measures taken by the school to meet all these needs.

A special working group continues to track the evolution of the academy process to ensure that the school remains fully informed of the options and benefits.

The next School Development Plan meeting with staff, governors and parents will be held on Wednesday 16th March 2016.

School Curriculum

We are delighted that the school has again achieved excellent EYFS and Key Stage 1 results and the staff and children are to be congratulated.

School improvement priorities have been driven by the careful assessment of pupil development and the need to sustain outstanding results, with virtually every child achieving expected or more than expected progress.

Governors were informed about the successful implementation of the new curriculum in Year 1 and Year 2 which has provided even more exciting opportunities for children's learning.

The school has exceeded its absence target for 2014-2015, and a new target has been set for the New Year. Thank you to all parents for your support in this area.

The school website publishes all the statutory and other useful information including the Pupil Premium and Primary PE and Sports Funding statements, and the "Local Offer" for Special Educational Needs. The school still publish a prospectus as a marketing aid each year.

School Policies

The following policies/documents were agreed for adoption:

Governors Charging and Remission/Lettings, Data Protection and Handling, Staff Acceptable Use/Code of Conduct for ICT, Health & Safety, Pay Policies – Teachers and Support Staff, Appraisal, Recruitment and Selection, E-Safety, Visitor Acceptable Use/Code of Conduct for ICT, Anti-Bullying and Behaviour.

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

Budget

Despite no increase in funding from Government, the school has produced a balanced draft budget for 2016/17.

This is due to staff and governors continued benchmarking of spending against other similar schools, introduction of savings and new streams of income. It is expected that there will be no new increase in education funding during the current parliament, however, there will be a new National Funding Formula, delayed until 2017, to address the wide differences in funding throughout the country.

The Surrey Heath Learning Partnership, a partnership of local schools, 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.

The governors would like to commend the PTA on their excellent fundraising efforts enabling the school to purchase additional resources to enhance the curriculum for pupils.

School upgrades

The kitchen refurbishment continues to meet the additional demands arising from free school meals and I am pleased to report that further refurbishment is planned.

The bungalow has been refurbished and has been let providing much needed extra funding for the school. All persons letting the bungalow have a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check ensuring appropriately vetted individuals reside there.

Volunteers from Gartner Limited spent a day at the school completing the clearing of the nature area during the summer break.

The Governing Body plans to meet next on 10th March 2016.

On behalf of The Governors I would like to wish you all a Joyful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Martyn Keates
Chair of Governors