

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2024

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

The Governing Body is made up of 13 governors including the Executive Headteacher, one Local Authority Governor, one Staff Governor, two Parent Governors and eight Co-opted Governors (typically members of the local community). We have recently elected a new Chair of Governors, Victoria Crawford, following James Gowland stepping down from the role after a significant number of years of service as our Chair. James will remain a member of the Governing Body to continue to share his skill set and expertise and he has worked closely with Victoria to ensure a clear handover of responsibilities. Victoria has a background in government and has served as a member of the Governing Body for a number of years and is well placed to lead us forward.



TERMLY REVIEW

Last academic year was a very successful one for our schools partnership, and we are fortunate to have such a committed community and team of staff who are all seeking the best for the children who attend our schools. Our recent 'World Week' highlighted the incredible diversity of our schools, which have nearly 40 different home languages spoken and children from all over the world. We are very proud to have schools that invite their communities to be as involved as possible and an environment where children flourish and achieve so well. As school Governors our role is to act as 'critical friends' and make strategic decisions as a group, whilst the operational management of the schools remains the responsibility of the school leadership teams. We meet both as a full Governing Body and in school subcommittees each term, watching the performance of each school closely. It is evident that our schools benefit enormously from working in partnership and we are watching local and national developments closely to make sure that we can continue to retain the autonomy and local accountability that have supported our successes. At the end of the term we bid goodbye to Ms Davie, our Executive Headteacher who has given 15 years of service to our Federation. Leadership of the Federation will continue under Mr O'Brien who is an established and well known member of our community and will ensure a stable onward journey for the Federation. We hope that this new Governor newsletter helps you better understand our work but please also follow our schools on Twitter or Facebook or take a look at our updated school websites to see the breadth of what we do. Thank you for your support in making sure that our three-school partnership continues to be such a success.



GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT

The Governing Body are currently seeking nominations for a **new parent governor**. Anyone who has parental responsibility for a pupil at the school at the time of the election can stand for election; may nominate someone; and may vote. **If you are interested in finding out more, please visit the website page by scanning the QR code.** We are also delighted to share that we have been allocated a Young Governor through the Hackney Young Governance project. This is part of an innovative programme encouraging more young people from all walks of life to have a say in education. This is our second time participating in the project and we look forward to introducing our new recruit in the next newsletter.



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN TALKING ABOUT?

This term, the Governing Body has met as a full team, there have been sub-committee meetings for each school and the resources committee have met also. Governors have discussed key local issues including the falling roll concern in London and national changes to the Ofsted framework. Governors reviewed end of year outcomes, looked at staff development, learnt about curriculum development, reviewed staff surveys and looked at key financial documents including how the schools spend the pupil premium and sports funding budgets. Governors review a range of reports including those from the School Improvement Partner, the Local Authority and the Department of Education to inform their understanding of how the schools are doing relative to others. There is more information about our meetings as well as our annual calendar of meetings on the school websites.



GOVERNOR VISIT MORNING

The Governor visit morning this term was to Hoxton Garden School and there was a focus on the mathematics curriculum. We have updated and improved our mathematics curriculum this year for KSI so that it includes more problem solving activities and even greater challenge for confident learners. All three schools undertaken online times table testing programme, which allows teachers to establish which times tables children know confidently and which ones they need to learn. Children are expected to know all of their times tables to 12 x 12 off by heart by the time they reach the end of Year 4. Governors spent the morning visiting classrooms, meeting staff and speaking to children. A group of children were also invited to present their learning and experiences of mathematics, which led to a very useful question and answer session. Next term Governors will visit Southwold School, with a visit to Orchard planned for the Summer Term.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

In the Summer term of each year, Year 6 children take their standard assessment tests in reading, grammar and mathematics and writing skills. End of key stage assessments are compared to other schools in England and published nationally as an indicator of relative performance. All three partner schools do extremely well compared to other schools, with our children achieving and making progress that is significantly better than expected and typically in the top 10% of schools nationally. We are particularly proud of how well children from disadvantaged backgrounds do compared to other pupils in England. These measures are an important recognition of the hard work of children and staff, but also show that having a rich and exciting curriculum, alongside high expectations and great teaching, make a real difference to how well children do with these crucial reading, writing and mathematics skills. As Governors we are committed to ensuring that this rich curriculum remains an integral feature of our schools.



KS2 Data Outcomes

	Reading	Writing	Maths	GSP	RWM
Orchard	95%	89%	95%	94%	84%
Southwold	96%	91%	93%	91%	91%
Hoxton Garden	90%	90%	98%	98%	83%
National (2024)	74%	72%	73%	72%	61%