

December 2022

Dear Parent and Carers

Here is a short introduction to the Governors of Highwood Primary School and what our roles are. You will find personal names and details on the website

What are we responsible for?

A school governing board has three primary duties:

1. To set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school.
2. To hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school.
3. To oversee the financial performance and ensure that money is well spent.

We are not involved in the day-to-day management of the school. Operational decision making is performed by the School Leadership Team (SLT) which comprises of the Head Teacher, Deputy Heads and senior leaders. Instead we are focused purely on the strategic and the longer term.

We are all volunteers and are dedicated to making Highwood a great school for pupils, parents, staff and the local community. The Full Governing Board is made up of all of us. In addition, we have two sub committees, Resources and Quality of Education. Each committee has regular meetings every term, each with a specific focus to meeting our objectives:

- Resources – To manage finances and school spending
- Quality of Education – To review and analyse the school data and curriculum opportunities
- Full Governing Board (FGB): To monitor the School Development Plan (SDP)

To set and review the whole school's strategy, aspirations and long term goals

What have we done in the last academic year?

- The governors have continued to support the school throughout the last academic year and were delighted with the outcome of the Ofsted inspection and its rating of Good:
- Continued to hold FGB and committee meetings virtually
- Reading and Writing – Regular virtual meetings have been held together with virtual book scrutiny to witness progress
- Maths – Worked with Miss Majer to understand the Maths Action Plan
- Assisted with recruitment by supporting interviews for new staff
- The governors have undertaken extensive investigation into the structures of Multi Academy Trusts and how this would impact on Highwood if the school joined. We were informed by a number of presentations from other established Academy Trusts

What do we plan to do this year?

- Mirrors & Windows – This is a recurring theme during our monitoring visits to ensure there are opportunities for pupils and to inspire and encourage them through role models in their lives and the world around us.
- Catch-up Premium - Most pupils have been impacted by prolonged absences from school through the pandemic, The Governors, through the Resources Committee will monitor how they are being enabled to catch up.
- Highwood is now open to visitors so the Governors are planning more visits into school to observe pupil progress and have a look at their work, both in books and on display boards. As Governors, we recognise the importance of the wellbeing of staff and pupils and this is an aspect we will be monitoring.

Multi Academy Trust

Following the governors' research into academy trusts over recent months and subsequent consultations with staff and parents, an extraordinary meeting of all governors took place on 21st November 2022. At this meeting, the Highwood governors unanimously agreed and voted to join the Orchard Learning Alliance (OLA) multi academy trust.

Parental & Community Engagement

Governors would like to know what you need to support your child's progress at Highwood. We are keen to hear any opportunities for Highwood to benefit from.

We do have a vacancy for a Clerk to the Governors. If you want to find out more information or have any questions, just check our page on the school website or email the FGB Chair wsabaroche@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk

Please get in touch – we are always ready to listen and keen to hear your views

Highwood Governors