

# Gresham Primary School

## Annual Chair of Governors Report - Academic Year 21/22

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Gresham's first Governors annual report on the activities of the Governing Body (GB) during the past academic year.

A lot has been going on behind the scenes to help and support the Headteacher and staff and it is my pleasure to update you on the work that has been undertaken over what has been a very challenging period, as a result of the continuation of the Covid Pandemic.

May I firstly warmly thank Ms Steele, teaching and support staff for their dedication and hard work through what has and continues to be a very challenging period.

The Governing body has been extremely impressed with the efforts of the school to meet these challenges and to enable children to catch up on their learning where required.

During the year Jason Hughes, a former Chair of Governors, stepped down from the GB and we wish Jason well for the future and thank him for his help and support over the years.

It was my pleasure to welcome Keith Yeoman who replaced Mike Chalk as a parent governor and has taken over the role of Finance governor. Mike has since re-joined the GB as a co-opted governor, so welcome back Mike!

Back in September 2021, we undertook a review of our skills to ensure that the GB is comprised of people who have the combined skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school and the ongoing maintenance and ethos of its strategic direction.

The GB has continued to train throughout the year to improve skills and ensure we are fully equipped to meet best practice governance.

This review will continue to be completed annually and where appropriate, governor training will be provided for the key areas that require additional skills to undertake the governing role effectively.

At the start of the school year the GB recognised that a governor should be appointed to champion wellbeing of both the staff and children. Tracy Evans took up this role and has been heavily involved in supporting the embedding of the mental health and wellbeing provision across the school. She has worked with leaders on developing a strategy to support the wellbeing of staff so they can, in turn, support the pupils.

There has been a wellbeing programme run for children every Friday afternoon, plus half termly reverse school trips, funded by the PA in conjunction with school, which has been very successful

Paul James was appointed as the Diversity/multicultural link governor role for the school in October and continues to provide an oversight role on behalf of the GB.

Throughout the year we have been in close contact with the Local Authority to discuss the conversion of the Caretakers house into a new administration hub with the addition of an extra classroom. I am pleased to report that planning was passed in February and that works

have now commenced with a completion expected by the end of the year. This expansion will enable us to create an additional bulge year in September 2024.

During November the school was audited by the Local Authority as part of a financial and premises review that occurs generally every three years. I am pleased to advise that the school was awarded 'Substantial Assurance' grade with a small number of minor corrective actions identified, which I am pleased to report have all now been closed off.

In December we bid farewell to our School Business Manager Francesca Sporle, who retired after many years of diligent and excellent service to the school. Becky Brooder, who had previously worked at the school in an Administration role, was appointed as our new SBM.

At the start of 2022 the results of both staff and parent surveys were reviewed by the GB and appropriate action plans were implemented to address areas where an opportunity for improvement was identified.

During March Keith Yeoman and the new SBM attended benchmarking training and completed a thorough review of spending, to try and ensure that best value is being achieved. A report by Keith was tabled at the March GB meeting to consider additional opportunities to increase income streams for the school.

During April the GB reviewed the school full performance data report provided by the Deputy Head and the updated School Improvement Plan, together with the interventions being planned to target improvements.

At the May GB meeting Tracy Evans was thanked for monitoring the administration of the KS2 SATs and reporting that the school was fully compliant with test administration guidance.

During June the GB agreed that a new staff wellbeing survey should be completed to review progress from the last survey and to review the actions required moving forwards.

At the last GB of the academic year meeting in July we were extremely pleased to note class 6 outstanding results in their end of Key Stage 2 SATs.

As you can see, they outperformed the national results considerably. This was an amazing achievement, especially considering the disruption to learning over the past few years.

Well done to the children for all their hard work and a big thank you to all the staff, throughout the entire school, who have helped these children achieve such amazing success.

Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard	
	School	Nationally
Reading	97%	74%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	94%	72%
Maths	97%	71%
Writing	88%	69%
Science	91%	79%

**Kim Durling – Chair of Governors – September 2022.**