

Gresham Primary School

Annual Chair of Governors Report - Academic Year 22/23

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

It was again my privilege to be re-appointed Chair by the GB for a further term and a great deal of work by the GB has been going on behind the scenes to help and support the Headteacher and staff over the period.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ms Steele, teaching and support staff for their dedication and hard work through what has been a challenging catch-up period, following the pandemic.

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.

In September, 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.

The commencement of the school year began with school activities having to be completed alongside the ongoing site development and expansion works of the former caretaker house, to create a new administration hub and additional classroom/meeting room space.

The new year also involved all teachers, support staff and governors undertaking revised Keeping Children Safe in Education safeguarding refresher training.

At our October meeting, Andrew Dean was appointed as a parent Governor following an election ballot and I was pleased to welcome Andrew to his first GB meeting in November.

In line with best practice, we introduced a monthly safeguarding report made by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) Ms Tracey Butler-Kemp Deputy Head, for review at GB meetings.

In November and with succession planning in mind, the GB decided to appoint Jihan Turner as an Associate Governor, Jihan will attend GB meetings to gain an understanding of the function of the GB without voting rights. Jihan was the runner-up at the election ballot for the parent governor vacancy.

December saw our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) leave for pastures new and as a result, it was agreed that the Head and Deputy Head would take on the SENCo role for the remainder of the academic year, during which a replacement would be sought. I am pleased to report, that Mrs Gough has now been appointed and will start in September.

A great deal of focus has been placed on wellbeing of staff and pupils, in January our wellbeing link governor undertook a staff wellbeing survey and the feedback of this was reviewed by the GB. Regular wellbeing feedback meetings were also scheduled, to ensure that the GB continues to fulfil its duty of care for the staff.

Governor visits for each foundation subject is now linked with a governor and the teacher leading the subject to aid feedback to the GB and staff senior leadership team and aid confidence for the teaching subject lead, to help them prepare for our next OFSTED visit.

This also helps the GB to monitor pupil feedback and wellbeing. In addition, half termly free events have been introduced for the children, to help support their ongoing wellbeing.

The overall feedback from these visits has been extremely positive from both staff and children.

During April, Vivianne Aziba the Local Authority appointed governor decided to step down at the end of her four-year term of office and I wish Vivianne all the best for the future.

The new Administration hub was also handed over and administration operations were transferred to the new building. I would like to thank Mrs Broder and her administration team for all their hard work to ensure a seamless transfer was achieved.

In May, it was noted that immense pressure was being felt by the teaching staff, due to the overdue OSTED inspection and the uncertainty of when this inspection would finally occur. In my opinion, their needs to be a review in the way in which these inspections are structured, to provide some degree of certainty of when they will take place, rather than a telephone call out of the blue on a Monday morning and an inspection the next day!

At the beginning of summer, a great deal of emphasis was placed on online safeguarding after a Croydon school incident, where a child was found to have been groomed whilst on-line and blackmailed to provide indecent images. I implore all parents and carers to be very careful about leaving a child to go online, without keeping an oversight of the activity taking place.

In July we celebrated the end of the school year and noted the strong attendance (averaging 96.5%) which I see as a real strength after the pandemic and certainly an issue many other schools are struggling with.

Our ongoing focus on reading has been very successful and splitting the English role into reading and writing with a separate leader has allowed stronger subject leadership and development.

I was again extremely pleased to note year 6 outstanding results in their end of Key Stage 2 SATs.

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

I would also add, that had the handful of greater depth children, whose parents removed them from the school at the end of year five to pursue non mainstream secondary education, been allowed to continue into year six, Gresham results, would undoubtedly have been even better!

So, a massive well done to the children for all their hard work and my grateful thanks 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		Average scaled score	
	School	Nationally ¹	School ²	Nationally ³
Reading	88%	73%	107	105
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	87%	72%	106	105
Maths	92%	73%	107	104
Writing	75%	71%	N/A	N/A
Science	89%	80%	N/A	N/A

1.percentages for Reading, Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling, Maths, and Writing teacher assessment (TA) are based on provisional headline information on the 2023 national curriculum assessments.

2.Scaled scores guidance: <https://gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-2>.

3.Average scales scores for Reading, Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling and Maths are based on provisional headline information on the 2023 national curriculum assessments.

Kim Durling – Chair of Governors – September 2023.