



AUTUMN TERM 2021

HIGHFIELD GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER



Message From The Governors

By Nikesh Tailor

The Governing Body aims to make a positive difference for the pupils at our school.

We do this by working closely with all members of the school community including senior leadership, staff, parents, pupils and the local community to provide strategic direction ensuring the impact is measured with evidence.

We hope this termly newsletter will provide insight into the structure and responsibilities of the governing body and some of our ongoing work.

Thanks to all the staff, parents and pupils for their hard work this term. Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

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Our Values

Kindness - Respect - Co-Operation

Who are school governors?

Governors are Britain's biggest volunteer group, with over 300,000 in schools across the country. We come from all walks of life and bring a range of skills to governing bodies. You don't have to be an education professional to be a governor, but you do have to be passionate about education and be willing to commit some of your free time to work with the school. Governors are unpaid for their work.

What do school governors do?

Governing bodies are the strategic leaders of our schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education.

The purpose of governing bodies is to 'conduct the school to promote high standards of educational achievement at the school'.

Governing bodies should have a strong focus on three core functions:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school
- holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.



Governors need to:

- be fully committed to the role
- be discreet, open-minded and fair
- be willing to raise questions constructively and participate in discussion and decision-making
- be prepared to participate in the life of the school
- have the time to attend governor meetings and training
- be open to new ideas and ready to learn
- act at all times with honesty and integrity and be ready to explain their actions and decisions to staff, pupils, parents and anyone with a legitimate interest in the school.
- Follow the Nolan Principles

Governors do not:

- have involvement in the day-to-day running of the school
- inspect the school
- authorise all expenditure
- decide which pupils will be admitted to the school
- decide how pupils are taught individual subjects.

Goodbye and hello

The Governing Body is sad to see Dan Greenwood leave as a parent governor but we thank him immensely for his hard work over the years. Following an election, we are happy to announce Tim Guha (pictured) has been appointed as a parent governor. To learn more about Tim and the other governors please visit the school website.



Curriculum and Teacher Development

A key strength at Highfield is the staff's commitment to a sequential curriculum, where each pupil is supported and challenged to reach their potential. Pupils benefit from linking knowledge with key skills and building on prior knowledge to understand related topics. An example of this would be understanding Windrush from a historical view but then also linking it to migration in geography and music in the Caribbean. Governors critically review school improvement objectives with senior leaders to strengthen Highfield's commitment towards exceptional professional development for teachers, based on learning walks and teacher self-evaluation. With this in mind, the school has invested in teaching Walkthrus; a program teachers can use to strengthen their teaching practice. The creator Tom Sherrington is due to visit the school in Spring 2022.



Teaching Walkthrus

Change to Governor Link Roles

Link roles are important in allowing the governors to work directly with leaders in the school to challenge and support them in ensuring the best outcomes for pupils. After discussion, the Governing Body has decided to restructure the link roles and create two areas of focus: curriculum and inclusion. This allows for greater **co-operation** with four governors assigned to each area. This is in addition to the safeguarding, SEND and GDPR link roles.

We are very proud of the exceptional work by pupils from Year 1 to 6 in the Highfield Community Action Plan. The purpose of the Community Action Plan is for our pupils to be active citizens in our school, local and wider community.

Pupils have embraced Highfield's core values of **kindness, respect and co-operation**. Some highlights include Year 1 and 2 focusing on litter picking, Year 3s donating toys for Afghan children new to the country, Year 4s working together to donate food to a local charity, Year 5s scattering buddleia seeds for the bees and butterflies and Year 6s writing letters to the local elderly home. A fantastic achievement and passionately-led by Assistant Head Miss Brown.



Seed scattering



Letter writing



Food donation delivery



Food donation

Coming Up In Spring Term

Subject to Government guidance, the Governing Body hopes to meet with pupils, staff and parents through link governor roles, school council and coffee mornings.

