



Governor Blog October 2023

Our latest full governing body took place on 3 October 2023. Our first action at the start of every school year is to appoint our chair and vice chair. Gemma Wood was unanimously re-elected to the role of chair. She will be supported by Brian Buckingham who was appointed to the role of vice chair also by a unanimous vote. We are grateful for their commitment to these important and challenging responsibilities.

At the same time we also reviewed the roles and responsibilities of our governors, who are each appointed to liaise with staff on various aspects of the curriculum, school development plan and school strategy. This ensures that the governing body is holding the school accountable for things like the quality of education, safety and financial management. Full details of our governing body and their roles can be found on the school's new website. We also planned training for governors to ensure that we can all take on our roles effectively.

Another of the governing body's responsibilities is to review and approve the school's suite of policies. This is an annual job to ensure that our policies are up to date, taking into account any new legislation, feedback from stakeholders or decisions made by the board. Our policies can be found on our school website.

For part of the meeting the board was joined by the school's business manager who reported on the school's budget. The budget is rated as GREEN, which means that we have sufficient funds to operate the school. It was noted that staffing and energy costs have increased, which may put pressure on finances in the next few years if government funding does not keep pace with increases in the cost of living. Our asset management plan also identifies areas of the school where we may need to spend money to replace equipment or make repairs or improvements to our buildings, which must be budgeted for. We are grateful to FOKS for their generous support, in particular their commitment to investing into art and design and technology resources.

The board also heard that our nursery currently has some spaces and would welcome more children who wished to benefit from joining during the school year.

We continue our search for new governors from the local community and in particular require those who can offer experience and knowledge in the areas of primary education and mental health and wellbeing. The role is particularly well suited to those who can spare some time during the day to visit the school and take part in meetings and engagements that require governor input.

Written by Nik Watson.

