



Watling Park School Governor update – Spring 2018

Hello! My name is Dhanmita, I am the Chair of Governors for the school but also a Year 1 mum.

The role of the Local Governing Body

Recently we've been asked a few questions about who we are and what we do. Broadly, our role as Governors of Watling Park School is to provide focussed local governance and for this we have 3 main objectives;

- Ensuring the school is governed following the school and Trust's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher and senior leadership team to account for the educational performance of the school, its pupils and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school, ensuring value for money is achieved

The governing body meets twice a term throughout the year, the first meeting is a strategy meeting where we look at the headteacher's report, the budget and overarching key issues. The second meeting is a portfolio meeting where each governor can go into some depth about the area that is assigned to them; these include areas such as safeguarding, curriculum, pupil premium and EYFS to name just a few. A full list of all governors and the areas we cover can be found on page 2 so, if you have any questions, do feel free to contact us individually and we will do our best to help and or answer any of your questions.

Ofsted

Watling Park is now in its Ofsted year, meaning that the school can have an Ofsted inspection anytime from now until we break up in July. This will be a 2 day visit, with the outcome being a grade given to us by the authorities. We want to get a Good or Outstanding grading which can only be achieved through the continuous support of our families, who give us regular feedback on how we are doing, what works well, areas we can improve on and most importantly through your support in home-learning and participation as a community school through our PTFA, 'The Friends of Watling Park'.

Thank you to those of you who completed the recent parent survey from BPET. Parent surveys are important for us in helping to understand the needs and concerns of our school community so thank you to everyone who completed this. We already have an action plan in place and will be able to update you with progress soon.

Attendance

Attendance at school is hugely important for all children and missing even a day significantly impacts their learning; currently Watling Park has attendance figures and persistent absence figures a few percent below national. Children are registered twice a day at 8.45am and at 1pm, so if appointments can be made in afternoons children will miss less school and coming in late is better than not coming in at all! Holidays and trips taken during the school term will not be authorised and may even be penalised by the local authority. So let us work together to get our attendance figures higher and ensure that we give children the best start to their education

The past, present and future

I think you will all agree that Watling Park has been on a journey since we started in September 2015. Today, we are in a fantastic place to take our school forward with our brand new building and our dedicated and talented staffing team, to ensure a fruitful and happy beginning for our children. Most importantly, thank you as parents and carers for your continued support, participation and passion. We look forward to seeing good progress for the rest of the academic year.



Integrity



Confidence



Appredation



Responsibility



Excellence

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Local Governing Body Members



Dhanmita Boodhna

Chair of Governors
*Leadership and Management,
Building and Site Premises, SEND,
Finance Committee*



Sonia Mallick

Acting Headteacher



Mark Greatrex

Trust Rep
*Pupil premium, the gifted and
talented*



Sharma Ruddock

Parent Governor and Vice Chair
*Achievement across all groups
(data) and Community Relations*



Anna Mechlinska

Parent Governor
*Safeguarding, Attendance,
Lateness and Behaviour*



Eve Watson

Staff Governor
*Communication, PR and
Marketing*



Alyson Shannon

Community Governor
EYFS provision and outcomes



Yaacov Goldin

Community Governor
Finance Committee



Caroline Gerstein

Community Governor
Breadth of Curriculum

****Sarah Beaumont, Local Authority Governance Advice Officer and Clerk, *Barnet Council*****

*If you would like to get in touch with us please email myself or Sharma at
Chair@Watlingparkschool.org.uk or ViceChair@Watlingparkschool.org.uk
or find us in the playground!*

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Highlighting Watling Park's results and forthcoming SATS for our Year 2

We know it's not just all about academic achievement, in fact, it's through living and breathing our values that we will develop Watling Park children into being well rounded citizens of the future. However, there are some key benchmarks that the Government set out for us.

We had solid results in 2017 with 71% of our pupils achieving, what is defined by Government, as a Good Level of Development in Reception (the 2017 national average was 70.7%) and 75% of pupils passed the phonics screening in Year 1 (2017 national average of 81.4%).

The school is currently striving to surpass national and Local Authority averages in 2018 as we work towards;

- 80% of reception pupils achieving a Good Level of Development
- 85% children passing the Phonics Screening Check in Year 1

This is also an important year for our Year 2 pupils who will be taking their SATs test in the summer term. Again the school has a solid plan in place and is working towards the following KS1 targets in 2018: Reading 80%, Writing 76%, Maths 82%.

ENGLISH

English is taught at Watling Park through three key components: speaking, reading and writing and is led by Mrs Neve. Writing has been an area for improvement nationally and is also for our school. The decision to use 'Read, Write, Inc' books for reading and to teach phonics has been the approach for the school for the past few years. Phonics is taught in reception, which includes writing letters and saying the corresponding sounds which then evolves into the blending of sounds enabling children to start reading and writing by the end of their first academic year. This is then developed further in Year 1 and 2 to reading and writing more complex sounds and advanced skills. Both phonics and English are taught daily and a very consistent approach is taken throughout the school.

To encourage further learning of English, children practise all their skills through their topic work giving them the opportunity to write, speak and read books related to their topic, whether it is 'Space', 'Pirates', 'Toys' or 'All About Me'!

MATHS

Mrs Renouf-Crotty is the school's Maths lead and she wants to champion a love of learning for maths, a key subject for all our children. This year the school has adopted a new scheme called 'Maths No Problem' which is a very successful scheme used all over the world which aims to deepen the understanding of each concept and help the children towards achieving a 'mastery' level of understanding.

The way this is taught in class is through 3 steps: Concrete, Pictorial and Abstract (CPA). Concrete is the "doing" stage - children handle physical objects to model problems. Pictorial is the "seeing" stage - children draw or look at pictures, circles, diagrams or models which represent the objects in the problem. Abstract is the "symbolic" stage - children are able to use abstract symbols, such as $+$, $=$, x , $-$, to model problems. All of this was covered recently in a workshop led by the Maths lead which can be found on the school website under home learning.

The Trust is delighted to announce that we are working with a specialist maths consultant, Robert Wilne, who will be working with us further on delivering excellent maths provision across our schools.

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Priorities for Governors for the rest of the Academic Year

In addition to ensuring that we are Ofsted-ready, Governors have prioritised three areas of focus for the rest of the year. In conjunction with Miss Mallick, we agreed that they were broad enough to provide flexibility but focussed enough for us to ensure that prioritisation is applied appropriately and for us to be able to monitor through regular visits, updates and the leadership report.

The first priority area is **Leadership and Management** which covers the following;

- Strengthening the Governing Body through further training
- Recruiting a substantive Headteacher for the school to start in September 2018
- Developing highly effective phase and subject leaders

The second area of focus will be the **Environment**;

- Providing a wide range of clubs for our children who use our wrap around care, including music, languages, ICT.
- Plan to have holiday club providers in place for Summer 2018, if not sooner, to support or working families
- Generate income for the school through letting the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

And the third is **Teaching and Learning**;

- Monitoring the progress and attainment of vulnerable groups to diminish differences
- Ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum is taught throughout the school and prepared for KS2
- Progress for all groups in writing

Governors would like to express their huge thanks to all of the dedicated staff at Watling Park for a great start to this academic year in our journey to create an outstanding school and also to the Friends of Watling Park for starting the year with some fantastic events to raise funds for the children.

We, of course, wouldn't be here without our committed and amazing parents and children so well done everyone!