

Governing Body Review of the Year 2023/24



Greenway Primary
& Nursery School

In previous years we have provided you with an overview of our work throughout the year, but we thought that we would take a different approach this year and instead focus upon one very special governor and the work undertaken by her in her time as a governor at Greenway.



After an amazing 22 years as a governor, our Co-Vice Chair Fiona Duck has decided to step away from the Governing Body as she and her husband contemplate semi-retirement in the West Country. Fiona has been a stalwart of the Governing Body for many years and a huge support to the school, starting as a parent governor and then becoming a co-opted governor.

Governors are made up of individuals with a huge range of skills from the private and public sector. Fiona is no exception as she (and her husband) have run a graphic design company in Berkhamsted (Junction 9) for many years – the business will be continuing with their taking more of a back seat role!

Governors are tasked with the voluntary role of supporting and challenging the school to ensure that it continues to meet the ethos and planning priorities that have been established and to act as a 'critical friend' to the Headteacher and staff to whom operational responsibility is delegated.

Whilst as a governor she has not been involved in the day to day management of the school, Fiona has brought her considerable wisdom, skills and knowledge in supporting the school from all sorts of different angles over the years whether it is assistance with the newsletter; discussions with the Local Authority; having a word with the Town Warden on a regular basis about chopping back the undergrowth along the Gilbert Way alleyway; supporting the school with a capital funding bid for replacement windows and being very involved with the supervision of their installation; reviewing the school website and providing support with production of the school prospectus; involvement with the build of the school library which your children continue to use and enjoy; being interviewed by a number of Ofsted inspectors over the years; or leading on and supporting your children in planting the Greenway nursery of trees.

Every governor takes on at least one link role and Fiona has been no exception to this - at the point that she stepped away from the Governing Body she shared the role of link Inclusion governor with Michele Webb and was also link governor for Art, a key priority in the School Development Plan.

The Inclusion governors meet with the school's inclusion coordinator Dani Roe on a termly basis and always need to have the school's SEND Policy and Pupil Premium Strategy at the forefront of their discussions to ensure that those steps which the school takes on behalf of your children are being monitored and challenged appropriately. What do the link governors do at these meetings?

On an anonymous basis:

- Check the numbers of children with SEND who are on the school's SEND register; the numbers who have Educational Health & Care Plans; and whether any have additional higher needs funding;
- Check the number of pupil premium children; check the numbers of children who are children looked after or special guardianship; the numbers who are on the SEND register; and the numbers who have free schools meals (if any);
- Monitor the funding applications being prepared and submitted and the impact on schools of successful and unsuccessful applications;
- Monitor the support from external agencies and the impact of the delays in support on pupils and the consequential work undertaken to support these pupils within school;
- Monitor the attendance figures of those children with SEND and/or in receipt of pupil premium and work undertaken by school to support attendance;
- Monitor the assessment of pupil premium children with and without SEND; the interventions being undertaken and impact of those interventions;
- Monitor the spending of Pupil Premium and Catch Up Premium to ensure that the money received is used in the most effective way for the benefit of those particular children eligible for it;
- Monitor the Wellbeing Champions now operating within school and the additional support offered.

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Governors are reassured by the reports provided of these visits and can question the link governors on any matters arising at their regular governors meetings. We hope that as parents you will also be reassured of the very great care that is taken in ensuring that policies and procedures are being effectively adhered to and managed.

As Link Governor for Art, Fiona has been into school on a regular basis to see teaching in progress and to meet with children. Prior to doing so she familiarized herself with the school's Intent and Implementation documentation for Art; the DfE Art Programmes of Study and the Access Art Scheme adopted by Greenway in the context of the priorities of the School Development Plan. Fiona was then able to see what was being taught; how this was being demonstrated to pupils; and how your children are being questioned and encouraged within class and what adaptations are in place to support all children to 'have a go'. Hopefully you will have a chance to see your children's amazing pieces of Art displayed at the Open Day!

This year, other governors have undertaken specific visits to school focussing on key areas of the curriculum (for example Lou Collins monitors Sport in school; Janet English monitors the provision of English within the curriculum; Sheena Marsh has a focus on History and Geography; and Megan Lemon has taken on responsibility for Early Years) as well as a morning visit to school in February where they observed English and Maths being delivered across most of the year groups. Governors noted the relationships between staff and pupils; relationships between pupils; behaviours and attitudes to learning in class; the quality of education; how staff question and encourage children

within the class; and what adaptations are in place to support all children to learn. Your children continue to be engaged and very enthusiastic about their learning and able to discuss their lessons with us as well as telling us all about what they had been learning.

There have also been governor visits to observe, seek feedback and report upon PSHE, Behaviour and Anti-bullying (Lou Collins); Finance (Anita Nielsen) and statutory governor Health and Safety (Nick Brown) and Safeguarding (Elizabeth O'Reilly) visits.

Fiona has been the embodiment of this Governing Body's ambition to ensure that Greenway is delivering the very best it can for your child/ren and for you in the circumstances in which the school finds itself at any given time. A huge thank you to Fiona for all her hard work, professionalism and good humour – you will be very missed by us all.

We hope this insight, focussing on just some of the work done by one of Greenway's longest serving governors, provides a flavour of the care and dedication given by all governors to the task of overseeing the strategic management of school on behalf of you and your children.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth O'Reilly MBE

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body