

IMPACT STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD 2022-23

Dear parents and carers,

Another year has flown by and once again under the dedicated strong leadership of Mr Griffin and his deputy Ms Ellery, so much has been achieved at Purley Oaks.

It has been a very difficult year in many respects with budget cuts, restructuring and staff sickness. Despite this, there are so many achievements to be so very proud of.

We recently enjoyed the very professional performance of Pride Rock by year six, amazing dances by all year groups including by the delightful nursery and reception classes in the annual dance festival. There was so much talent shown in all the different music assemblies and of course at sports days.

To add to all this, we have just had the end of Year 6 SATs results which are so much improved and will mean our combined score will be above the national average. Fantastic news! Further, across the school, progress is at least good and, in many classes, above average.

The Governors are very proud to fully support the school vision for excellence for all our children through:

- strategic overview
- support and challenge for the headteacher
- financial overview to ensure the school finances are well spent.

We do this seven times a year at full Governing Board meetings and through our committee meetings - finance (twice termly), premises (termly) and teaching and learning (four times a year). We spend at least one day a year as a whole Governing Board looking at an aspect of the curriculum. Assuming Chair of Governors, I regularly meet with Mr Griffin to catch up school events.

Other Governors visit the school to keep themselves updated. Safeguarding is a priority, and a governor regularly visits the school for updates.

Teaching and Learning committee

- Governors agreed to invest £10,000 in new Little Wandle phonics scheme. This has had a great impact on the standard of reading in the Early Years.
- A morning was spent in school looking at the teaching of phonics and reading.
- Senior leaders presented their annual report to governors identifying the successes in their subject and the next areas for development. Progress on these priorities is always discussed at committee meetings.
- Individual governors met with subject leaders included literacy, numeracy, special needs, Early Years and the wider curriculum.
- Termly monitoring of attainment and progress was carried out across the whole school. The data is provided by the headteacher in a termly detailed report. All groups are identified and scrutinised e.g. special needs, gender, EAL and disadvantaged. Trends are noted and action put into place by the school if needed. For example, last year the school focused on phonics and writing. Next year the focus will be on maths.

- School priorities in the school improvement plan are regularly reviewed at our meetings.
- Overall pupil attendance is tracked by the school and shared with governors.

Premises committee

- Last year, governors agreed to fund a major investment in the outdoor area. Year one has an amazing new outdoor learning area with a canopy and artificial grass. This has had a significant impact on their transition from reception and therefore on their attainment.
- The playground and arena also had a major makeover - resulting in the children enjoying playtimes so much more. They are more active, take part in more sports, extra-curricular activities and competitions. Behaviour has significantly improved.
- Regular health and safety walks are carried out around the school with the site manager.
- We received regular updates on work carried out in the school. This year the window replacement project should be completed in the summer holidays by the LA.
- Governors receive regular reports from our school business leader including fire safety and external premises inspections.
- A three-year action plan was reviewed and updated to redetermine the priorities considering the budget constraints.
- This year the decision to do our catering in house was agreed. This has been a great success with an increased take up and greater enjoyment in the meals offered. The offer of a Halal option has been particularly popular. Breakfast club attendance has also increased with more children enjoying a hot meal before school.
- An ongoing priority for Governors is the redesign of the Brighton Road junction with Bynes Road. We will continue to liaise with the LA highways department, road safety, local councilors, our MP and the director of education.
- Governors were very disappointed at the reduced funding for the children's centre which meant the LA would only fund services for half a day a week. The future of this funding is still uncertain, so Governors have agreed to a part time nursery starting in September to be run from the children's centre building. This will mean we can offer thirty more part-time spaces.

Finance committee

- A focus has continued and will continue to be on staff well-being.
- To ensure the school financial stability for this year and for the near future, it was necessary for us, unfortunately, to review and change the staff structure. To make this a fair process, we sought guidance from both the Local Authority and the unions. This was a painful process for all concerned. It necessitated in a few redundancies. A few staff took voluntary redundancy and some are moving on to further their careers elsewhere.
- A termly personnel report has been received including staff training, staff absence.
- Head teacher performance management was successfully carried out with the school LA.
- The annual school budget was agreed. By carrying out the restructure, although very difficult to do, it does mean the school's finances are secure.
- Half termly monitoring of budget carried out.

- Quarterly monitoring returns are sent to the LA for approval.
- This year the school decided to do the catering for school lunches internally and in so doing cut costs by removing the “middleman”. This has been hugely successful and there has been an increase in pupils having school lunches.
- Benchmarking exercises carried out to compare Purley Oaks spending with other schools.
- Half termly reports are received from the school business leader including any overspending and underspending and the reasons for this.
- Governors welcomed the appointment a new business leader Mrs Murphy, who started employment last September has had a very positive impact already.

All governors undergo regular training according to their areas of responsibility e.g. new governors have a two-day induction.

All statutory policies are regularly updated including Safeguarding and Keeping Children Safe in Education.

If you have any suggestions for governors, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office or alternatively speak to our parent Governor Ken Bazley. We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor and the election will be held in the autumn term.

I hope this report demonstrates why this year has been another very successful year, albeit with its challenges. The children love coming to school and love learning. Under Mr Griffin’s expert leadership and guidance, very ably supported by Ms Ellery, deputy headteacher, the staff have all worked incredibly hard to give the children the best possible education. The Governing Board wishes to sincerely thank the whole team for all their hard work and dedication.

Finally, we also wish all the leavers every happiness in their new schools and roles.

Thank you all for your continued support of the school,

Jan Kennard
Chair of Governors