

Yerbury Primary School Governors' Report 2024-25

As the Governing Body of Yerbury Primary School, we are proud of the school and its welcoming, inclusive ethos. In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Governing Body at Yerbury Primary School are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

In the 24/25 year we have welcomed a new deputy head to the school and have seen progress on some important estates projects, including a successful application for a SEND capital grant.

Governance Structure

The Governing Body is made up of 12 governor roles as follows:

- 4 Parent Governors appointed by ballot of the parents at the school (1 vacancy currently)
- 1 Local Authority Governor appointed by the Local Authority (currently vacant)
- 1 Staff Governor appointed by ballot of the staff
- 1 Headteacher
- 5 Co-opted Governors appointed by the Governing Body based on a skills audit (1 vacancy currently)

The Governing Body uses a professional Clerking service provided by Islington Council. The clerk is responsible for arranging meetings, taking minutes and following up on all actions. The Clerk also advises on procedural matters and plays a key role in the work of the Governing Body.

Governors are all appointed (except for the Headteacher), are independent and have equal status to each other. A Chair (Rosemary Marsh) and Vice Chair (Sam O'Leary) are elected by the Governing Body and work closely together with the Headteacher and the Clerk.

During the school year 2024/25, the Governing Body had 3 sub-committees: The Curriculum and Learning Committee (CLC), The Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP) and the Pay Committee. The CLC and F&GP meet at least once per term and the Pay committee meets annually. Governors are assigned link roles so we can ensure there is focus on important areas. These link roles include safeguarding, SEND, equalities, careers/culture, pupil premium, health & safety and finance. Governors with link roles complete visits to the school to monitor these key areas. Governors also approve the School Development Plan each year and one governor is

appointed as the link for each focus on this plan. Formal monitoring visits allow governors the opportunity to observe and communicate with staff and pupils and ensure that actions agreed in the School Development Plan are being actively undertaken by the school. After each visit, a formal report is prepared and presented at the next Governing Body meeting. From this the progress in the delivery of agreed school priority areas can be actively monitored and impact on the education of the pupils more effectively assessed. During 2024-25 the Full Governing Body met 5 times, the CLC met 3 times, the F&GP met 3 times, the Headteacher's Appraisal Committee met once, and the Pay Committee met twice. Full Governing Body Meetings are usually face to face, while committee meetings are held virtually. Formal monitoring visits were undertaken in safeguarding, finance, health and safety, equalities, pupil premium and SEND and in order to monitor areas of the School Development Plan. Governors also visited informally supporting school events such as The School Fair and International Evening. The Chair of Governors has regular meetings with the Acting Headteacher and has had termly meetings with the Headteacher outside of Full Governing Body meetings.

The overall attendance record of governors has been good and every meeting has been quorate during the school year. Details of the attendance of school governors are published on the school website.

The Headteacher's Appraisal Committee is supported by an external advisor. The Governing Body and the committees all have clear terms of reference and all Governors are required to abide by a Code of Conduct.

Governing Body Skills & Knowledge Development

The Governing Body recognises that to effectively fulfil its role, it must ensure that all of its Governors have the required skills and knowledge to support the achievement of the school's priority objectives. Regular skills audits are undertaken to identify and address any skills gaps together with an annual self-evaluation of the effectiveness of the Governing Body over the school year. The Governing Body receives support from the London Borough of Islington Governor Services, including termly Governor Briefings (these have been held more frequently over the pandemic period due to frequent changes in guidance to schools). The Governing Body is a member of the National Governors Association and uses this and other relevant information channels to ensure it remains abreast and up to date on relevant developments in the education sector.

Governor Focus in Academic Year 2024-25

At the beginning of the school year, the Governing Body agreed a School Development Plan with the headteacher. This annual planning document is used to identify the key areas on which the school and the Governing Body wish to focus during the academic year and includes proposed actions as well as measurable outcomes so that the Governing Body can monitor whether action is on track and evaluate its effectiveness. The School Development Plan is published on the school website.

In addition to school monitoring visits, the Governing Body uses other school data including, SATS results, Local Authority data, government data (Analyse School Performance), Phonics Screening Check, Baseline Assessment, the Ofsted Data Dashboard and regular internal school assessment data. Pupil progress and attainment is scrutinised through data analysis. Vulnerable groups including pupil premium and SEND children are closely monitored. During the 2024/25 academic year, the Governing Body continued to monitor school finances closely. Careful management of finances over several years of decreasing real-terms funding led to a stable financial year this year but Governors will continue to focus on financial planning over future years given the coming changes in energy pricing and the wider economy.

Governor focus areas for 2025/26

This year, the Governing Body will agree a new School Development Plan with the school highlighting new key areas of focus. These will include a focus around integrating the recent changes in the school Senior Leadership and also a focus on SEND needs and provision in the school. They will also continue to help set the longer-term strategy of the school, to closely monitor financial status and to work closely with the Headteacher, SLT, staff and parent communities to deliver the best outcomes for our pupils.

The Governing Body will approve the new School Development Plan in late 2025. This will be published on the school website.