

## **Annual Review of the Governors 2016-17**

### **Furzedown Primary School: Our Mission**

We aim to become an inspirational school to produce good citizens for the future in an atmosphere that promotes confidence, high academic achievement, physical health and emotional well-being.

### **The Role of the Governing Body**

The Role of the Governing Body is to (1) Provide strategic direction for the school (2) Act as a critical friend to the Head Teacher and (3) Ensure accountability.

### **The Governors**

Rebecca McIlroy, Chair of Governors

Alastair Cowie, Co-vice-chair and Chair of Extended Provision and Premises Committee

Simon Hill, Co-vice-chair

Chris Coates, Chair of Finance Committee

Rev Sue Clarke, Chair of Pupils and Curriculum Committee (resigned Summer 2017)

Katherine Williams

Nickla Sohanpal

Charley Jarrett

### **Staff Governors**

Monica Kitchlew-Wilson

Caron Heywood

Nick Dutton

### **What we do**

The Full Governing Body meets once a term, following meetings of three sub-committees: Pupils & Curriculum; Finance & Staffing; and Premises and Extended Services. The subcommittees receive updates on progress in key areas and ensure that agreed developments are on track. Governors' attendance at meetings has been 80% year. The sub-committees also perform a key role in ensuring the School's policies and procedures comply with our statutory obligations. Governors also spend a day each term at school meeting staff and students.

### **OFSTED Inspection**

In March the school was inspected by OFSTED. The inspector's report said:

"This school continues to be good... Together with senior leaders and governors, you have developed a positive and inclusive vision for the school that is supported by all. You have created a caring and nurturing ethos where good behaviour and trying hard are valued. You and your leaders are reflective and your self-evaluation is accurate. You are quick to respond and make changes to improve learning across the school."

Key areas for development are:

"Expectations for writing in all subjects are as high as they are in literacy, and The challenge for pupils with mathematical abilities typical for their age is demanding enough to ensure that more of them are working at greater depth by the end of each key stage."

A big thank you to all the staff, children, parents and carers who supported the school during the inspection.

## **Key Stage 2 Results**

A huge well done to the Year 6 class of 2017 for their Key Stage 2 SATs results. Highlights of which include:

- 71.9% (41 out of 57 children) achieved their expected level or above for Reading, Writing and Maths. This is 4.5 percentage points above the average for schools in Wandsworth.
- 86% (49 out of 57 children) achieved their expected level or above for Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. This is 3 percentage points above the average for schools in Wandsworth.
- 35% (20 out of 57 children) achieved the highest threshold for Reading; 40.4% (23/57 children) for Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling; 33.3% (19/57 children) for Maths.

For anyone keen to understand more about these results or background to “expected levels” there is plenty of helpful information, comment and debate at [TES](#) and [Schools Week](#).

## **Pupils and Curriculum**

Furzedown’s ethos is underpinned by its approach to behaviour and how children at the school develop their understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

The school achieved the Bronze Anti-Bullying Quality Mark with elements of silver this year. A huge amount of work went into this process, with input from children, staff and parents. Evidence was gathered from the last two years.

The school was also re-assessed for UNICEF’s Rights Respecting School award in the Summer Term, and achieved Level 2. This is the highest level of the award and is awarded to schools that have fully embedded children’s rights throughout the school in its policies, practise and ethos. Well done to everyone.

The Key Stage 2 results, above, are really encouraging in all areas and maths continues to be a key priority for the school. We are now using the ‘Maths No problems’ scheme in years 1 to 6.

This year the school orchestra performed to great acclaim to a rapturous audience in the hall and there are now 70 children in the school choir.

Future awards include renewing our Artsmark and History Quality Mark.

This year, attendance was up to 96%, an increase from last year’s 95%.

## **Premises & Extended Provision**

As well as many noticeable improvements to the playground and outdoor space, this year saw much-needed repairs to the school roof and the old bell housing. Several volunteer parents came in to help with redecorating in July. A big thank you to all of them.

This year the school achieved Gold in the Transport for London accredited Travel Plan. New initiatives in support of that included encouraging children to come to school on bikes and a grant of £3,000 for new bikes. In November the school was visited by Dr Bike who came in to help children maintain and repair their bikes.

With an increasingly tight budget this year the school has been looking at how the quality and choice of after-school clubs can be maintained. Clubs have been well attended this year, the school choir particularly so. Breakfast club has been well attended too this year.

### **Finance & Staffing**

School budgets have been high on the national agenda this year. The school has a clear plan for the next few years, but uncertainty continues, as it does for schools up and down the country.

The Finance Committee and the whole governing body have sought this year to ensure that difficult decisions are taken with a clear focus on the best outcomes for teaching and learning for everyone.

- Not replacing two members of staff leaving us this year
- Increasing costs of breakfast club to cover costs
- Taking advantage to the changes in nursery provision to offer additional Nursery places
- Increasing the cost of the school journey to slightly reduce the level of subsidy this receives
- Exploring options to raise income from renting the school hall.

Furzedown benefits from the flexibility of having just under three teachers per year group (full time equivalent of 2.8) going into the year from September. As a result we have no expenditure on supply teacher, for example.

Although the school has a budget deficit for the first time this year, good management of expenditure and the generosity of parents and the PTA mean that we have been able to reduce this slightly.

A meeting at school took place in the Spring term to inform parents about the tight budget and the impact this would have on the school. It was great to have so many people there.

This year we are sorry to say goodbye to Michaela Truscott, Hannah Colman, Jo Felton and Claire Lound. Claire will stay on to cover a maternity leave from the autumn.

### **And finally**

As well as thanks and best wishes to departing staff, this Summer, Sue Clarke stepped down as a governor. Many thanks to Sue for all her support and very best of luck with her future work.

Huge thanks again this year to all parents, carers and helpers involved in Furzedown's Parent Teacher Association. A sold-out quiz and a record-breaking Summer Fair are just two highlights.

### **How to contact us**

The governors can be contacted via the school office on 0208 672 3480 or at [admin@furzedown.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:admin@furzedown.wandsworth.sch.uk)