



North Ealing Primary School

Chairs' Report to Parents 2017-18

A message from the Chair

This will be my last report to you as I am stepping down from the governing body at the end of term. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 25+ years as a governor at North Ealing. When I joined we had a 50 place nursery in a temporary hut, a reception block which was notoriously smelly and not fit for the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum we know today.

Apart from the pupils in the Victorian building, which was all classrooms apart from the then hall (which is now an ICT suite, library and intervention space), the rest of the 420 pupils were housed in temporary huts which were at least 25 years old and were hardly a great learning environment particularly in inclement weather. We have worked together with the Local Authority, parents, staff, pupils and the local community over the years to achieve a site fit for purpose with 630 pupils and a 75 place nursery all housed in brick built buildings and I am proud of what we have achieved together.



Our vision "North Ealing works inclusively with our families to maximise the learning potential for all the children who come alive with the introduction of our learning values which are at the heart of everything we do. We have a rich and culturally diverse community and this inclusivity for all is something else I am very proud to have been associated with.

I am immensely proud of the amazing team of people leading the school and the fantastic team of staff who all strive to achieve the best possible outcomes for our pupils. I want to thank Judith Anderson, who is retiring as deputy head teacher this summer, for all her work and dedication to the school and to congratulate Marcia Bruley on her promotion to deputy head teacher following a very thorough recruitment process with a very strong field of internal and external candidates.

The Governors really appreciate the hard work and dedication shown by our leaders, teachers, support staff, caretaking and administration teams and would like to thank them and their families for their contribution to another very successful year. We would like to thank everyone who is leaving us this summer for all their hard work and wish them well in their chosen roles. We are looking forward to welcoming some new faces in September and we hope that they settle well and enjoy being part of an amazing team.

I leave the Governing Body in very good hands with Debbie Keenan as Chair, Andrew Dharman as Vice Chair and Chair of Resources and Dan Lawrie as Chair of Curriculum and Standards. We have 2 new

governors ready to be co-opted and 1 vacancy for an LA nominated Governor as Andy Akerman has stepped down for personal reasons. I would like to thank him his contribution to the school during the year. We have a great team of governors who each bring their life skills and experience to enhance our collective decision making and I know they will continue to drive the school forward.

Highlights of this year

- We continue to celebrate the achievements of our pupils not only academically but socially, morally, spiritually, culturally and in music and sport.
- We have achieved the Rights Respecting School Silver Award from UNESCO and we are setting our sights on achieving Gold.
- We are working in partnership with the Place2Be project to provide a safe environment for pupils, parents and staff to receive support during periods of anxiety and disruption. We also use Place2talk for pupils to self refer for group sessions with school volunteers to talk through issues affecting them. This is increasingly important for the well being of our community in an ever changing world.
- We have further developed our team approach to training and professional development with new ways of working and sharing best practice.



Priorities for next year

- Developing a whole school curriculum based around the enquiry based learning approach which we introduced in science this year.
- Continue to focus on particular groups of pupils to ensure that they make at least expected progress and achieve their potential.
- Finding innovative ways to reduce costs without impacting the outcomes for pupils.
- Build on our involvement with the West London Teaching Alliance to further develop our team and to enhance opportunities for teacher recruitment.

Funding

As you are aware there is massive shortfall in funding for schools across the country and we are not immune to the effects of the introduction to the National Funding Formula. We are looking at ways we can increase funding from other sources to support specific projects which will enhance the educational experience of our children. We would love to hear from you if your employer operates a matched funding scheme for such projects.

Thank You

Finally I would like to thank you, your children, all our staff and my fellow governors for all the support that you have given me and the school over the years. I wish you all the very best for the future and I will miss you.

Shirley Kenworthy-Wright

Resources Report

The resources committee have met termly to discuss the school budget, premises and policies relating. The priority focus for the resources committee is to work with the leadership team to plan the budget for the school acknowledging the external funding pressures in the current climate. Mrs Gordon the business manager has been vital to ensure the safe development of NEPS. There have been several developments over the school year to strengthen the school going forwards. This includes the security of the school premises. The safeguarding work has been thorough and led well by Mr Belsito. The safeguarding group meets termly and includes pupil involvement. This reflects well the learning values of school. The construction of the school mound/playground has been a notable piece of work supported by the PTA.

Residential trips and policies have been reviewed and are an exciting aspect of the school calendar for all concerned. Staff changes are reviewed regularly and Ms Flowers and the leadership team have worked well to ensure the team at NEPS provide high quality education for all pupils. Another new development this year has been the complex subject of GDPR. This has been a large piece of work for the school (with Governor input) and has been managed efficiently.

The Governor Visit day was a good opportunity for Governors to visit different aspects of the school during a normal school day without interfering with educational activities. Health and Safety along with safeguarding were reviewed. It was a great opportunity to meet with Elizabeth Waterhouse the lead for Place2Be and Place2talk reflecting the broad support and education the children receive at NEPS. Some parents were also utilising the Place4parents service. The lead did commend the parents at NEPS for being so welcome to the programme and facilitating the experience for children.

We look forward to ever changing challenges a diverse and well engaged school like NEPS has in store for the Resources Committee.

Andrew Dharman, Chair of Resources

Curriculum and Standards Committee Report

Curriculum priorities this year included a focus on science across the whole school, improving and extending writing, and a comprehensive reading review. As always, we also looked at and discussed pupil attainment and progress data throughout the year – many thanks to the SLT for providing this information and talking us through it.

In June, the Governors enjoyed a really informative visit day. Highlights included observing orchestra club, attending a philosophy lesson on the concept of bravery, sitting in on Yr 1 and Yr 6 writing groups, meeting with the school council, and participating in a science learning walk. It was fantastic to see the children engaged in their work across the full spectrum of the curriculum. This is a lot of work for the teachers to organise and co-ordinate but it is really valuable for us as governors.

We have also undertaken separate visits on pupil premium and safeguarding. Next year promises to be busy for this committee with the ongoing review of the curriculum and a continued focus on science.

Steering Group

This group meets three times a year, and membership is made up of the chairs/vice-chairs of each committee and the head teacher. We determine priorities across each committee and also act a sounding board for the head teacher. We also received regular updates on the West London Teaching Alliance and NEPS work associated with this, and also Ealing Learning Partnership.

Pay Committee

We have met 4 times this year to fulfil our duties under the whole school pay policy and the national Teachers' pay and conditions arrangements. We are also responsible for the performance management of staff though the Staff Appraisal Policy.

Debbie Keenan, Chair of Curriculum and Standards, Steering Group and Pay Committee

