

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2023

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

The Governing Body is made up of 13 governors including the Executive Headteacher, one Local Authority Governor, one Staff Governor, two Parent Governors and eight Co-opted Governors (typically members of the local community). We also appoint Associate Members to support the school sub-committees. In the Spring Term, we will have three new governors; two associate members and one full governing body member joining the team. We seek to recruit governors with particular skills in finance, safety, law, inclusion and diversity to ensure a broad and balanced team. New governors attend an induction programme to support them in undertaking their role.



TERMLY REVIEW

As we approach the end of the first term of the academic year, we are pleased to report the continued success of our schools as a result of a dedicated and hardworking staffing team and our committed school communities who make this possible. Alongside children returning to their new classrooms and engaging in new curriculum learning, there have also been a number of community events including winter sing a longs, international evening and regular coffee mornings which have demonstrated the continuity of strength in partnership working. In the Spring Term, Governors will have the opportunity to review the outcomes from the annual school community survey completed by families this half term.



At Viridis Schools, we have one governing body for all three schools. The governing body operate at a strategic level and are not involved in the day-to-day running of the school. We are responsible for both the conduct of the school and for the promotion of high standards. Collectively, we set the vision for the Federation, ensuring that the school works efficiently and effectively towards achieving the goals set, and ensuring that the school provides a high quality education and ambition for pupil success. We meet both as a full Governing Body and in school subcommittees each term, watching the performance of each school closely. It is evident that our schools benefit enormously from working in partnership and we are watching local and national developments closely to make sure that we can continue to ensure Viridis Schools continue to retain the autonomy and local accountability that have supported our successes so far.



WELCOME TO TOLU OJO-WILLIAMS

Tolu joined us as a co-opted governor. She is an international finance lawyer with experience in fintech, debt capital markets, structured finance and renewable energy project financings. Tolu also has experience as trustee and director of several charities in the last 10 years, working primarily on fundraising and project management. She has worked on projects providing training and equipment to clinics and hospitals in rural areas of several African countries and has fundraised for the building of schools and training of teachers in Lagos, Nigeria. She is keen to contribute her skills and time positively to her community, having grown up near Hackney.



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN TALKING ABOUT?

This term, the Governing Body has met as a full team, there have been sub-committee meetings for each school and the resources committee have met also. Governors have discussed key local issues including the recent announcement of school closures and amalgamations, reviewed end of year outcomes, looked at staff development, learnt about curriculum development, reviewed staff surveys and looked at key financial documents including how the schools spend the pupil premium and sports funding budgets. Governors review a range of reports including those from the School Improvement Partner, the Local Authority and the Department of Education to inform their understanding of how the schools are doing relative to others. There is more information about our meetings as well as our annual calendar of meetings on the school websites.



GOVERNOR VISIT MORNING

Governor Visit mornings take place each term to enable a spotlight on aspects of the Federation provision. Our first Governor Visit Morning took place at Hoxton Garden with a focus on inclusion for all at Viridis Schools. Governors had the opportunity to see how adaptive teaching is applied to ensure all children make good progress from their starting points. A presentation was shared by the Lower School Deputy Headteacher and the SENCO, explaining systems and structures as well as the Federation Local Offer for children who are identified as needing extra support. Governors met with a group of children who explained how they are supported in school. The Governors who attended were very impressed with the quality of children's articulation and the evidence of high-quality learning in their workbooks. During a walk around the school, governors were able to experience first-hand how all abilities are catered for within lessons through resources, scaffolds and adult support. Our schools continue to ensure a teaching assistant is working alongside the class teacher which is an active budget decision to ensure adult to pupil ratios maximise rapid progress.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

In the Summer Term, Year 6 sat their standard assessment tests in reading, grammar and mathematics and undertook writing assessment tasks. Children in Year 2 were also assessed in reading, writing and mathematics, primarily by teacher assessment. Both of these end of key stage assessments are compared to the national data. All three partner schools did extremely well, with our children achieving and making progress that is significantly better than expected.



We are particularly proud of how well children from disadvantaged backgrounds do compared to other pupils in England. These measures are an important recognition of the hard work of children and staff but also show that having a rich and exciting curriculum, alongside high expectations and great teaching, make a real difference in how well children do with these crucial reading, writing and mathematics skills. Governors have thanked leaders and their teams for the exceptional results achieved and we remain committed to ensuring continuing high standards that ensure children leave us 'secondary ready'.



KS2 Data Outcomes					
	Reading	Writing	Maths	GSP	RWM
Orchard	84%	85%	88%	88%	72%
Southwold	93%	89%	89%	91%	87%
Hoxton Garden	97%	92%	97%	94%	92%
National (2023)	73%	71%	73%	72%	59%

