



THE GOVERNING BODY

The Kenningtons Primary Academy Governing Body consists of a group of volunteers from staff, parents and the local community. They come from a variety of backgrounds – some from education, while others bring skills from finance and banking, insurance, business including communications, marketing and transport management and the civil service. Details of the Governing Body membership can be found on the school's website.

The Governing Body has collective accountability and responsibility for the school and ensures there is compliance with regulatory, contractual and statutory requirements.

The Governing Body provides:

- **Strategic leadership:** The Governing Body defines the school's vision for high quality and inclusive education. It also sets and promotes the school's culture and strategy.
- **Accountability and assurance:** The Governing Body must have robust and effective oversight of the school's operations and performance. That includes the provision of education and pupil welfare. It oversees and ensures appropriate use of funding and effective financial performance. It also has responsibility to keep the school's estate safe and well maintained.
- **Engagement:** The Governing Body has strategic oversight of the school's relationship with stakeholders including parents and its community.

Governors work hard with the Headteacher and other members of staff to ensure that the children's education at Kenningtons is of the highest standard possible and provides them with a wide range of experiences and opportunities. Governors carry out their roles through:

- Attending full governing body and committee meetings
- Carrying out monitoring visits
- Reviewing data, reports and audits

Governors' Code of Conduct: It is important that the Governing Body works to the highest standards of conduct. As governors we acknowledge and accept that there are expectations and commitments required from us to carry out our duties and responsibilities properly. Therefore, each year, we all agree to abide by a Code of Conduct which sets out the purpose of the Governing Body and describes the appropriate relationship between governors and the leadership team at the school. You will find ours on the school's website.

Interested in joining the Governing Body?

Governors do not have to be a parent or carer of a child at the school or have any previous experience in education, just a willingness to get involved and be able to commit some time each term to the school. We are always keen to hear from anyone who is interested in joining the Governing Body. Whilst we do not currently have a vacancy for a parent governor, please keep a look out on ParentMail or newsletters should a vacancy arise. We would though be interested in hearing from anyone who is not a parent or carer. Please contact the school for more information.

THE WORK OF THE GOVERNING BODY 2023-2024

MEETINGS HELD

Governors meet regularly either as a full Governing Body or as smaller committees. This year we have held the following meetings:

- 4 full Governing Body meetings plus our AGM
- 3 finance, audit and premises committee meetings
- 2 pupil, admissions and curriculum committee meetings
- 1 personnel and pay committee meeting

ISSUES DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS MADE

The Governing Body discuss many issues and make decisions affecting all aspects of school life - all focussed around those three core functions of the Governing Body. Amongst issues discussed and decisions made this year, were:

PUPIL MATTERS AND STANDARDS

- The KS1 and KS2 results from summer 2023 plus the school's own data on pupils' attainment and progress in all year groups in each term.
- Provision of SEND and the outcomes for SEND pupils including the review of an audit on SEND provision.
- Admissions: Admissions policies for both the school (Reception to Year 6) and the Nursery.
- The standard of teaching and the support and continuous professional development teachers receive.
- The School Improvement Plan: There was continued focus on the development of the curriculum and its delivery to pupils. The curriculums for Art and Science were rewritten and improvement in these subjects is already being seen.
- Reviewing a safeguarding audit.
- Monitoring how the pupil premium and sports premium grant are spent.
- Reviewing the results of Parent View and pupil survey.
- Reviewing an audit on EYFS provision
- Governors undertook training in safeguarding and child protection

FINANCE AND AUDIT

- Setting and agreeing the budget for 2024/2025.
- Agreeing a three-year budget forecast.
- The school's budget is managed on a day-to-day basis by the Headteacher and the Business Manager. The Governing Body monitors the budget and spending throughout the year.
- Finances continue to be a challenge. Funds from central government have not increased at least in line with inflation but costs and staff salaries still have to be met. The budget for 2024/2025 will again be set by utilising some of our reserve so that we do not have to reduce the provision and resources for the children. We will continue to carefully monitor the budget during the next year.

- Reviewing the annual report from our auditors and reports from our external provider, who carry out checks on our internal accounting systems.
- Reviewing a GDPR audit.

PREMISES

- There were some minor upgrades to the premises and site including the installation of a new security system.
- Health and Safety – reports and an audit on health and safety were reviewed.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

- Headteacher performance management.
- Agreeing pay awards for all staff and monitoring teachers' performance management
- Agreeing staffing levels and structures. The school is fully staffed for September 2024.
- Results of a staff survey were reviewed.

PUPILS' ACHIEVEMENT 2023-2024

Here are the headline results from this summer's SATs and assessments.

| Key Stage 2: | % Of pupils reaching expected standard | |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| | Kenningtons 2024 | National 2024 |
| KS2 SATs: | | |
| Reading | 86% | 74% |
| Writing | 86% | 73% |
| Maths | 89% | 72% |
| Reading/Writing/Maths combined | 79% | 61% |
| Key Stage 1 Phonics: | % Of pupils reaching expected standard | |
| | Kenningtons 2024 | |
| Year 1 Phonics | 92% | |
| Year 2 Phonics | 88% | |

These are very good results and particularly impressive when compared to the national average. The Year 6 children's education was also disrupted by the COVID lockdowns while they were in Years 3 and 2. These results are recognition of the hard work put in since the lockdowns to catch up and ensure that as little learning as possible was lost. One of the goals for this year was to bring Writing results up in line with those for Reading and Maths. As you can see, this has been achieved. Monster Phonics (the school's KS1 chosen phonics scheme) has continued to produce excellent results in KS1 phonics.

Please note: Your own your child's assessments will be in their end of year report.

OFSTED

In December the school was inspected by Ofsted – it was an ungraded visit. That means the focus was on determining whether the school remained at the same grade as the previous inspection. Although Kenningtons remains a ‘Good’ school, the inspector did state that should a full inspection be carried out there was evidence that the school would be graded ‘Outstanding’. Governors were delighted to receive such a fantastic report. It validated what Governors already knew, gathered from evidence and seen with their own eyes - Kenningtons is an outstanding school.

The inspector spent two days at the school and witnessed the school in action – she saw what happens on any typical day. Here are some of the comments from the report:

‘Pupils are incredibly positive about their school’

‘Adults have high expectations of what pupils should achieve’

‘Pupils of all ages get along very well together’

‘Pupils consistently behave extremely well in lessons and social time’

‘As pupils progress through the curriculum, they develop a deep knowledge and breadth of skills across a wide variety of subjects’

‘The school has effective processes in place to identify pupils with special educational needs’

‘The school’s provision for pupils’ wider development is exceptional’

Although the report did not note any areas for improvement, that does not mean the school will rest on its laurels. The school will continue to enhance and develop areas of the curriculum and all other aspects of the school, so that it will be ready for a full inspection. Hopefully then Kenningtons will achieve the grade of ‘Outstanding’.

PUPIL RESPONSIBILITY AT KENNINGTONS

This is a quote from the December 2023 Ofsted report:

‘Pupils show high levels of community spirit. They look after their environment and each other. Pupils fulfil their leadership responsibilities highly effectively. Some pupils serve their peers healthy food from the salad bar at lunchtime. Other pupils are responsible for allocating games at playtime or running the school library’

This directly references the area of Pupil Responsibility in the school. Over the past few years, this has become a successful feature of pupil life at Kenningtons. Pupils from all year groups but mainly from KS2, volunteer for a variety of roles and jobs that they carry out in the school. These roles are normally carried out at lunchtime.

There is a long list of responsibilities pupils can volunteer for:

- **Animal Handlers** – look after the animals and collect eggs from the chickens
- **Reading Champions** – help younger children read and run the library

- **Class Champions** - represent each class. They gather and present the views of the children in their class
- **Health and Safety** – help keep the school a safer place
- **School Bloggers** – write about events in school and post their reports on Google Classroom
- **Eco Warriors** – help improve the school environment
- **Salad Bar** - serve salad at lunchtime – all have passed the Level 1 Food Hygiene test
- **Lunchtime Hosts** – help in the Annex Hall at lunchtime
- **Logistics Team** – help move items around the school and deliver parcels
- **Maths Coaches** – help children improve their maths and times tables
- **KS1 Assistants** – help teachers at lunchtime with a variety of jobs that need doing
- **Artists in Residence** – help set up art lessons and assist in art club
- **Cabin Crew** – help with play equipment at lunchtime
- **Sports Captains** – help with games at lunchtime

While Miss Maguire is the overall lead for Pupil Responsibility, each area of responsibility is overseen by a member of staff. However, once the children understand what each responsibility involves, they then take charge themselves.

The children enjoy their roles – they are enthusiastic and passionate and keen to do a good job. The school finds that very few children actually drop out. Pupil Responsibility roles are popular – Miss Maguire has received a record number of applications for next year. She is also looking to expand the list of responsibilities.

Each week there are awards for ‘Employee of the Week’ and at the end of year prize giving, there are awards for ‘Employee of the Year’ and ‘Work Ethic of the Year’.

What are the positives for the school and the children? Pupil Responsibility gives the children:

- a sense of responsibility and independence
- a sense of pride in and ownership of the school
- aspiration and ambition
- preparation for later life
- help in making choices
- boost in confidence - particularly for SEN children. (Around 15% of the children involved are SEN)
- lots of activities at lunchtime

One of the school’s Core Values is *‘Enjoy learning through different experiences, have a range of opportunities and experience successes* and Pupil Responsibility certainly demonstrates that. Pupil Responsibility is just one of the things that makes Kenningtons stand out from the rest.