



GATEWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lifelong love of learning



Headteacher: Mrs Kayleigh Anstee

Date: 3rd July 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

The Governing Full Board met on 24th June 2024 for the last meeting of the school year; a meeting where we reflect on the current school year and plan for the next. At the meeting the minutes of our 20th May 2024 meeting were approved and are now available on the [Governor Page of the school website](#) along with lots of other useful information about governance including governor profiles.

At the meeting governors discussed recent governor monitoring visits which were all very positive; governors reported how calm the school was; pupil behaviour was excellent, the learning environments continue to be of the highest standard, pupils are engaged and excited about their learning and are making good progress.

Governors reviewed the end of year financial position of the school and were pleased that we are in a strong position overall which is no small thing given the extremely financially challenging times for schools nationally. Our strong budget position has been achieved through careful budget management (special thanks to Mrs Locke), a significant and ongoing growth in our pupil numbers, the fantastic uptake in wrap-around care we provide (a big thanks to colleagues for making this possible) and the amazing efforts of the GSA in fundraising for the school including through events which are always well attended and a big success - so a big thank you to the volunteers who run the GSA. Governors also discussed the recent investment in I.T across the school which means that all classrooms now have modern and up to date interactive whiteboards and which have significantly improved the learning experiences of our pupils.

At the meeting Governors reviewed the progress the school has made against the school development plan/SDP (the focus areas set by Mrs Anstee and her team at the beginning of the school year). Governors were pleased to see a positive picture of progress against the main the SDP areas:

- To maintain good teaching and learning across the school
- To continue to build on the reputation of the school, increasing numbers and the financial viability of the future.
- Further develop staff expertise in phonics so all learners achieve as well as they can
- Identify the precise knowledge and vocabulary that learners need to know across all subjects

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Governors were pleased to hear of the new colleagues who have joined the school, it was positive to hear how well they have settled in and that the school is fully staffed for September which will ensure the year gets off to a great start. At the meeting Governors said farewell to Mike Caffrey who is stepping down from the Governing Board at the end of term; Mike joined the Governing Board in 2020 and has played an important part in the journey and success of our school. Governors would like to express their thanks to Mike and wish him well for the future.

The Governing Board undertook an annual audit and review of our effectiveness during the year; this showed that we have been compliant with all statutory and best practice requirements of school governance, have a sound and update understanding of the school including strengths and development areas, have successfully held the school leadership to account and have effectively overseen the school budgets and spend.

WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP! We have one parent governor position still vacant despite the recent campaigns which is a serious issue for us as a board we also have 2 co-opted Governor vacancies which we urgently need to fill- it is really important that our community is represented on the Governing Board and that we have a full governing board with a diverse range of life experiences - if you would like to know more or apply then please review the information [here](#) or email me: kmoyses@gateway.oxon.sch.uk for a chat. If it is not something you are interested in, please do help us to flag the parent vacancy to other parents and share the co-opted vacancy with your networks. It is important that we have parents on the Governing Board that have a good mix of skills, experiences, and perspectives.

It was positive for governors to hear about the success of school events including the colour run, summer fete and sports day which were all well attended and showed fantastic community support for our school. Please do continue to share the school's good news with your friends, family, and networks. Governors would also like to give a special thanks to the GSA who continue to organise fantastic events, (including the colour run and summer fete) raising much needed funds for the school which are used to support our pupils during these financially challenging times.

Finally, the Governors would like to wish our year 6 pupils all the best for their move to secondary school and would like to thank all colleagues and volunteers for their dedication and hard work this year and parents and carers for their ongoing support and commitment to the school. I hope that you all have a lovely summer (when you get there) and we look forward to the new school year and seeing our school continuing to grow and flourish.

As always if you have any questions about governance at your school then please do reach out to me on kmoyses@gateway.oxon.sch.uk.

Best wishes,



Kevin Moyes
Chair of Governors

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