



UPLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Governors' Newsletter - July 2015

Website

Next time you visit the school's website, do take a look at our governor page. You will find details and photos of all governors and some information about our role and responsibilities, as well as latest news.

NGA Award

Thank you to all of you who have congratulated us on our recent success in the National Governors' Association Awards for Outstanding Governance. Our award and special commendation certificate are on display in the foyer. Bexley's Councillor responsible for education recently paid a visit to governors to congratulate them on their achievement.

Governor Day

On 1st July the board of governors spent the day in school. We took the opportunity to discuss how we could improve our effectiveness and plan and prioritise for next year. We also reflected on what we had achieved this year, which is summarised over the page.

We were delighted to receive a presentation from the school forum, who told us about their very busy year, and to join the children for lunch.

Chair of Governor's Message

Welcome to our first governors' newsletter. We have told you about key governor news through letters in the past, but we thought we could improve our communication with parents through a newsletter, which we will send out at least termly.

It has been another incredibly busy and successful year for Upland and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Vicky Sengupta and her staff for their continued drive, passion and hard work which is reflected in the educational achievements of the children and their enthusiasm to learn and progress.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Kindest Regards

Liz Dawes

Governor Changes

At the governing board meeting on 1 July, governors elected a new chair and vice chair of governors. Liz decided to step down as chair as future planned personal commitments are likely to impact on the time she has available to fulfil the role. Emma Johnson was elected as chair of governors and Malcolm Mackenzie was elected as vice chair. Emma has worked alongside Liz for the last three years and this change of role has been planned for some time. She and Malcolm are both fully aware of what their roles will entail. This will take effect from 1st September. Liz will remain on the governing board for the time being.

Thank you and good luck

Governors would like to wish Mr King every success in his new role at Longlands Primary School. Not only has Mr King played a key role in Upland's success, he made a valuable contribution to the governing board for around two years and we'd like to thank him for his hard work and dedication.

UPP

Governors continue to work with, and provide support to, the Upland Parent Partnership which has achieved so much in its first year of operation. Please do look out for the UPP's communications and we encourage you to provide your views whenever asked, as your opinion does help shape the future of the school.

Governor vacancies

We do not currently have any vacancies for parent governors on the governing board. But if you are interested in finding out more about the role of a governor, please do not hesitate to contact us via the office. We will shortly be looking to recruit some new governors from the community and if you know anyone who may be interested, do please let us know.

Upland Board of Governors—a successful year

Here are some of our key achievements this school year:

Governance was judged as “outstanding” by **Ofsted** during its October inspection.

The governing board was a finalist in the **NGA's Awards** for Outstanding Governance and received a special commendation for its transformation over a short period of time.

The **reconstituted** governing board consists of governors with the right skills and the time commitment to effectively fulfil their role.

Governors worked alongside school leaders as they developed new **data** to track children's progress and attainment. They have a detailed knowledge of this data, allowing them to effectively challenge senior leaders and hold them to account.

Individual governors were linked to members of the leadership team; **termly visits** were undertaken focussed on key priorities for development for the school.

Governors established the **Upland Parent Partnership** to provide a formal channel for parental opinion, ideas and support.

A **succession plan** was agreed to ensure smooth handover to a new chair and vice chair of governors and to continue to develop less experienced governors to take on key roles as chairs of committees in the future.

Governors agreed continued funding and support for the **outdoor curriculum**, including Outward Bound residential trips.

Governors agreed continued funding and support for the **music curriculum** which allows all children to access an instrument.

Development of the governor **web page**.

Sharing best practice with other governing bodies in Bexley and supporting those who have been judged to require improvement.