

# KINGSWOOD NURSERY SCHOOL

## GOVERNOR ACTIVITY 2018 - 2019



At Kingswood, our Constitution states that the Governing Board is made up of the Head teacher, one staff governor, two parent governors, one LEA Governor and five co-opted governors; making a total of nine. We do not have Committees, but each Governor undertakes to monitor particular areas. Governor names, together with their category and the areas(s) they monitor are listed below:

Name	Category	Areas Monitored
Mrs Jackson	Head teacher	
Melanie Harvey (Chair of Governors)	LEA	Progress and Attainment Appraisal and Performance
Chris Munroe (Vice Chair)	Co-opted	Equalities and Inclusion, Special Needs, Safeguarding, Appraisal and Performance
Julie McLennan	Staff Member	Pupil and Parent Voice
Louise Jones	Parent Governor	Finance, Safeguarding, GDPR
Mick Martindale	Co-opted Member	Health & Safety, Premises
Carole Racher	Co-opted Member	Teaching & Learning – Intergenerational Project, Finance, Mentor to New Governors
Emily Ricketts	Co-opted Member	Teaching and Learning – Outdoor Learning, Website
Aisha Tague	Co-opted Member	Finance

### GOVERNORS – APPOINTMENTS

In January, Aisha Tague was appointed. Aisha works in HR for Transport for London, and brings her HR skills and an interest in Finance to the Board.

In May the four-year term of office expired for Chris Munroe, Carole Racher, Mick Martindale and Melanie Harvey. All four governors agreed to serve for a further term.

During the summer, the Governing Board marked the thirty years of service Mick Martindale has given to Kingswood Nursery School.

### GOVERNOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Governors of all maintained schools have three main duties:

- To set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
- To hold the school leaders to account for the progress and attainment of pupils and the performance management of the staff
- To ensure the school's finances are well spent

The governors fulfil these duties through meetings of the Board of Governors, visits and individual meetings with Mrs Jackson and other members of staff and by examining data, reports, records and other paperwork.

## **TRAINING**

Governors at Kingswood understand how important it is that we all keep up to date with legislation, national issues and current practice and so attend courses that help to fulfil these commitments. Every Governor undertakes a full day of induction training and Carole Racher continues to mentor new governors.

In addition to formal training, before each Meeting there is a short information sharing session about an aspect of practice – this year these sessions have included The Alice Sharp Project, the Intergenerational Project, the Well-Comm programme, looking at Tapestry and the on-line Learning Journals and Outdoor Learning as well as a session looking at the finance Benchmarking tool.

This year, Governors reviewed training, identified needs and then considered the cost implications and the most effective way to access training. As a result of this work, it was decided to trial on-line training, because it would not only save us money, but would be more convenient for governors to undertake training at a time that suited them.

## **VISION AND ETHOS**

At Kingswood our vision is to provide the best opportunities and achieve the best outcomes for every child in our care; where every day is an exciting adventure. We have also developed a set of Core Values, which underpin all our work and that of every member of staff. We are proud that OFSTED acknowledged this in our most recent inspection by stating ‘Kingswood Nursery is a special place to learn’, and going on to say, ‘all staff and the governing body share the head teacher’s determination to provide the very best for every child’.

## **FINANCE**

As a shareholder in Herts for Learning, KNS is able to buy in financial support, with visits every month from a member of the Financial Services Support team who helps Sam Godfrey complete monthly returns and to monitor the budget.

For the past few years there have been two Governors who are very experienced in the field of Finance who have monitored the budget and led discussions in this area. But this year they were joined by Aisha which has not only enhanced the effective scrutiny and support, but strengthened the finance team and shared the load.

Every year the Board is required to complete a Schools Financial Value Standards assessment form which is submitted to Hertfordshire County Council demonstrating we have secure financial management in place. This year, as in previous years, we were able to do this, with no action points to take forward.

Due to budget constraints, Governors had to make the difficult decision to look carefully at the staffing structure. In order to submit a balanced budget, it has been necessary to make changes to this from September 2019.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

Governors agreed for school to again buy into the HfL Standards Package; giving the Head the benefit from the experience and expertise of a Hertfordshire Improvement Partner. The HIP works closely with Mrs Jackson and Governors to identify the strengths and challenges of the setting and to set priorities for the year ahead: she then makes termly visits to measure progress against these targets, which is reported back to meetings of the whole Governing Body.

As part of the strategic direction of the school, Governors regularly update and review policies.

Governors are particularly careful to ensure all safeguarding requirements are adhered to and see monitoring this area as one of their most important activities. The safety and safeguarding of the children, the staff and everyone at Kingswood is seen as a priority.

Governors feel their duty extends beyond supporting Kingswood Nursery School, to supporting high quality Nursery education nation-wide. With Mrs Jackson, Governors have attended the All Party Parliamentary Group hearings on the future of Nursery Education in the Houses of Parliament. Everyone was very proud when one of our former parents was invited to speak at one of these meetings and were even more so, when she praised the provision and care she and her daughter had received at Kingswood. After one of these meetings, Mrs Jackson, staff and Governors joined a march to Downing Street to hand in a letter outlining our concerns about the present funding arrangements for Nursery Schools.

## **HOLDING SCHOOL LEADERS TO ACCOUNT**

Nursery schools are due to be inspected every three years. At the last inspection, in March 2017, we received an Outstanding grade. This judgement means that our challenge in the future will be to maintain this grade in the face of changing circumstances.

Having set the priorities for the year ahead, each governor undertakes to monitor particular areas of interest or expertise and to report back to the full Board. Each governor commits to at least two monitoring visits per year to fulfil this task. You can see the areas each Governor undertook to monitor in the table above.

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If you would like more information about the Governors and their work, please visit the school website: [www.kingswood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.kingswood.herts.sch.uk) and take time to read the Minutes of the meetings which are posted on the notice board near the office.

