



school and community.

Welcome to the first Governor's newsletter. We hope that you will find the information useful and that it will give you some insight into what the Governing Body is focusing on. Being a Governor at St Gildas' is a great privilege. Our school is somewhere where young people are able to develop and excel whatever their particular strengths. Being a Governor can also be hard work, but I am sure I speak for all the Governors in saying that the sense of team working and the dedication of the staff make it very rewarding. There are many skills required on a governing body and no two governors are the same. For me, never being very good at fundraising and unable to volunteer within school on a regular basis due to work commitments, being able to offer up some of my experience in managing organisations allows me to support the

There are currently 13 Governors at St Gildas' made up of: Foundation Governors (appointed by the Diocese), parent Governors (voted for by parents and carers), teacher Governors (voted for by the staff of the school), a Local Authority appointed Governor and co-opted Governors, who have specific skills relevant to the work we do. The Governing Body has three tasks: first, to set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school; second, to ensure that the head teacher is supported and challenged in performing his or her responsibilities and third, making sure the school makes effective use of its financial resources.

Over the last six months Governors have been focusing on how to strengthen the relationship between the Governors and the head teacher and staff of the school. Over the coming months we will be focusing, amongst other things, on some of the items mentioned in the rest of this newsletter.

SARAH PRICE, CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

St Gildas' Governor's Newsletter

Spring Term

2014



Getting ready for Ofsted

As a school we have been through a major time of change. We have had a new head teacher, and there have been changes to the way schools are funded and a new inspection regime in which it is much harder to achieve the very top marks.

As St Gildas' has not been inspected since 2009, we anticipate a visit at any time. Governors would like to show Ofsted all the fantastic work done in the school to ensure that pupils achieve to the highest standard they can.

In order to do this we have been looking at the processes used to track pupils progress at all stages of their time at St Gildas'. Ofsted is particularly interested in long term progress made by pupils over the course of their time at the school, not just on the results achieved at the end of Year 6. St Gildas' has just invested in a new system that allows staff to track each pupil's progress term by term.

If children are not progressing at the pace that we would expect then action can be taken in a timely way to provide different approaches better suited for that individual child. We have been focusing on which groups do not achieve as we would expect

and thinking about how to support those children more effectively.

Through this tracking system we will understand the progress made by every child, in different areas of learning, every term so teachers can target activities to stretch and encourage every child to achieve their best.



What is Ofsted?

Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. It reports directly to Parliament and is independent and impartial. It inspects and regulates services which care for children and young people, and those providing education and skills for learners of all ages.

Most schools that have been through the new Ofsted process recently have not remained in the same category as they were under the old regime. We are working hard to make sure St Gildas' does as well as we can, but after our own self-evaluation we expect our classification to change (as with other schools).



Plans for the playground

We moved both the Year 3 and Year 4 classrooms out of the portacabins last summer and we are now focusing on improving the playground space. Our Governor with expertise in planning, Ingrid Pilkington-White, is leading this work - Ingrid along with one of our parent

governors, Emmet Walsh, is applying for grants to help pay for the work that needs to be done.

We should hear before the summer holidays whether our applications to the Diocese of Westminster and Sport England have been successful. If we do not attract all the funding we need, we will be talking to parents and carers about how we can raise the money in other ways. It is a really exciting project which will offer great opportunities for our children – you can see in the pictures to the left how we hope the space will look.

New appointments

Governors are interviewing for a new teacher to cover Miss Queeney's maternity leave. We will be using a substitute teacher until the end of the summer term and then taking on a teacher in September for the remainder of the academic year. We hope this will mean there is continuity for the children.

Priorities for improvement

Every school has a School Improvement Plan which is based on an evaluation of how Governors think the school is performing against national standards. Following the evaluation, Governors have agreed that we should make further progress in the following areas:

- **Pupil progress:** we will improve pupil attainment and achievement in all areas
- **Learning and teaching:** we will continuously raise the standard of learning and teaching, aiming to be consistently outstanding across the school
- **Behaviour and safety:** we will maintain high standards of behavior and safety for all pupils
- **Leadership:** we will continuously develop more effective leadership and management across the school

As Governors we have decided to review all our committees to make sure we work as efficiently and effectively as possible. We will also ensure Governors visit the school more often during the school day to observe how things work; we have asked to receive more information on pupil progress now that the new system for monitoring has been set up and finally, we want to build relationships with governors in other schools so we can raise the profile of the school and learn from good practice elsewhere.

Come and meet us on 19 May 2014

It is important that parents and carers know what the Governing Body is focusing on, so I hope this newsletter has given you some insight into this. We will be sending a newsletter out to you each term after the Governing Body Meetings. On 19 May we would like to invite you to join us for tea at 3pm when you can meet us and ask us any questions or give us your views about the running of the school. We hope to see you then.

GETTING IN TOUCH

If you would like to know more about the work that Governors are doing, please contact us through the school office or on the email address below.

CONTACT GOVERNORS

Email us on: admin@st-gildas.haringey.sch.uk