

Governor Newsletter

Summer 2021

TERMLY REVIEW



The academic year that is about to end has been full of challenges, but also filled with the mindfulness, motivation and admirable strength of our school communities. We hope our termly newsletters continue to be a useful way to share what Governors have been doing and how we work with the school leadership teams. Our meetings have continued remotely this year to enable COVID safe discussions. We anticipate however that our Autumn Term meetings will return to in person visits.

In the Summer Term sub committees we have looked at how well children are achieving across the schools and how the recovery curriculum and additional key skills lessons have meant that the impact of the partial closure between January and March has not resulted in significant gaps in pupil knowledge. During the Summer Term Governor Visit Morning at Orchard School we were able to hear directly from the children about their experiences of remote working and returning to school full time. The children were able to identify how the school had helped them recover lost learning and how the school has supported their wellbeing. They spoke with determination, resilience and pride.

In the last term leaders have undertaken a review of the work across the school year relating to race, identity and implicit bias. We heard about the review of reading books for school libraries and pupil topic studies, the training teachers have received around bias awareness in assessment, the evaluation of the curriculum map and the parent engagement sessions undertaken at all three schools relating to race and belonging.

We continue to be active partners with Hackney Education, working together to ensure that our pupils get the very best education we can provide. Each school hosts a termly school advisor visit to talk about school standards and Governors have reviewed reports. Governors have attended Hackney Governor briefings throughout this year to ensure a clear understanding of the responsibilities of schools during the changing context of the pandemic.

The schools are now able to host visits again from other schools and partnerships keen to know more about what we do and what makes us successful. This term we hosted a visit from another Federation in Hackney keen to hear about how we implement our curriculum and the impact this has on children's outcomes.



HACKNEY YOUNG GOVERNORS

Viridis Schools are delighted to be working with Hackney Education on a pilot project to recruit Young Governors. This is a 12 month pilot aimed to:

Diversify membership: widen knowledge, perspectives and skills of our governing board and reflect the communities we serve.

Enhance understanding by bringing insight and lived experience about the challenges of youth linked to learning, transitioning to adulthood and seeking employment.

Offer incredible experience for young adults to participate in strategic governance and leadership, develop skills, connect with experienced professionals and benefit from the shared learning.

We will have one Young Governor joining the team in September 2021!

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Viridis Governing body consists of 8 Co-opted Governors, 2 Parent Governors, 1 Staff Governor, 1 Local Authority Governor and an Executive Headteacher Governor. We have successfully recruited one Parent Governor, one Associate Governor and one Co-opted Governor who will be joining the team, and you will find out more about, in the Autumn Term. The Governing Body have actively sought to ensure diversity and representation of school communities fully through the latest recruitment. The Governing Body is a strategic group, working together as critical friends to the school. Individual governors cannot act on behalf of the Governing Body.

The role Governors have is to:

- To oversee the strategic implementation of strategies that build, foster and develop effective parental partnerships with the school.
- To monitor the development of a range of community services and extended school activities to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community.
- To consider the effectiveness of the schools' approach to promoting good attendance and punctuality.
- To monitor and evaluate progress on school development priorities, initiatives & interventions in order to feedback to the full Governing Body.
- To ensure that pupil assessment and record keeping systems are in place and working and that assessment data is used effectively.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of provision and the attainment of all pupils including that for SEN and disadvantaged pupils using school assessment information.
- To ensure that school policies on curriculum subject areas and on such matters as Safeguarding, Relationship and Sex Education, Religious Education, Special Educational Needs & Ethnic Minority Achievement are implemented and reviewed.
- To ensure that the school has a robust approach to safeguarding and the well being of all pupils.
- To consider the effectiveness of the school's approach to health and safety and disability access and make recommendations to the full Governing Body.

 Orchard
Primary School

 Southwold
Primary School

 Hoxton Garden
Primary School

 Viridis
Schools

