

Governor Newsletter

Reviewing Spring 2021

TERMLY REVIEW

Welcome to our Spring Term Governor update!

We were delighted to be able to say a big “welcome back” to all children and parents after another period of partial closure. We recognise the huge commitment parents have made to support remote learning and the continued strength of partnership working between home and school. I hope you will join the Governing Body in recognising the effort, dedication and commitment of the school staffing teams who have worked to ensure that every child had access to the curriculum, additional support and input according to their individual needs during the national restrictions.



Governors act as ‘critical friends’ to the school and make strategic decisions as a group, whilst the operational management of the schools remains the responsibility of the school leadership team. In our Spring Term Full Governing Body meeting and the school sub committee meetings we have talked about how the pupil premium, sports funding and COVID catch up grant are being used to support pupils across the schools. We have also overseen investment in pastoral care, such as our learning mentors, speech and language therapist support and therapeutic support from Unlocking Potential who work in our schools

Some members of the Governor Body have attended the Virtual Forum for Hackney Governors throughout the last year in order to keep the Governing Body informed of the Hackney context. At the most recent forum, Governors across Hackney have reflected on how our schools have been managed re-opening, and how our school leaders and staff are developing a high quality teaching and a rich curriculum that encompasses recovery from the impact of this pandemic.

PARENT SURVEYS



Thank you to everyone who completed the Autumn Term parent survey. In the school sub committee meetings this term, Governors looked at the results for each school. We feel very proud about the overwhelming positive responses including 99% of parents across the three schools believe the schools provide a good education and 98% of parents report their child feels that their teachers work hard and teach well. It is clear that the parent community continue to hold our schools in very high regard. Outcomes from the survey have been discussed with

leaders alongside the school action plans of further ideas to enhance our school offer. In the Summer Term all three schools will engage in parent reviews led by the Hackney Schools Group Board to talk about diversity and belonging within our communities.

LINK GOVERNOR ROLES

Governors have not been able to undertake the planned visit morning this term due to the national restrictions however, the Health and Safety link governor has met with school leaders to understand more about the risk assessment process and how our schools are maintaining a COVID secure environment, and how information is shared with pupils, staff and families.

The Link Governor's prime function is to effectively liaise between the school and the Governing Body, as a "critical friend", on matters related to their particular designated field of responsibility.

Link Governors become experts in their agreed link role and then feedback to the wider Governing Body at different points in the year. The Viridis Governing Body currently have link governors for Special Educational Needs, Safeguarding, Curriculum and Health & Safety.



GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT

We are looking for committed people to join The Viridis Federation Governing Body as a Co-opted Governor, Parent Governor or Associate Governor. We have one co-opted Governor role, one parent governor role and two associate governor roles available.

Who are we recruiting?

It is important to us that our Governing body reflects the communities that we serve.

Why are we recruiting?

- **A different way of thinking** – being part of a group of people that have different insights and experiences ensures balanced conversations, gives a voice to groups that may not otherwise be reflected and means that biases, barriers and stereotypes do not go unchallenged. Your perspectives will ensure that the choices made consider every child's needs, and that collective decisions are made in the interest of all pupils.
- **Community role models** – having a diverse governing body provides a connectedness and aspiration between a school and its community.
- **A culture of inclusion** – being part of a diverse and inclusive governing board is vital in setting the culture and for diversity to thrive at all levels throughout the school.

Governors need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of pupils, together with the time and willingness to get involved.

Soft skills such as the ability to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information are desirable. All governors are expected to be able to read budget reports and data on school standards.

For our co-opted Governor role, we would be interested in hearing from people with contract, property and estate management and health & safety experience.

For more information, please visit our school website governance pages.

