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### Chair's Report

It was uplifting to start a new school year with the pandemic in the rear-view mirror.

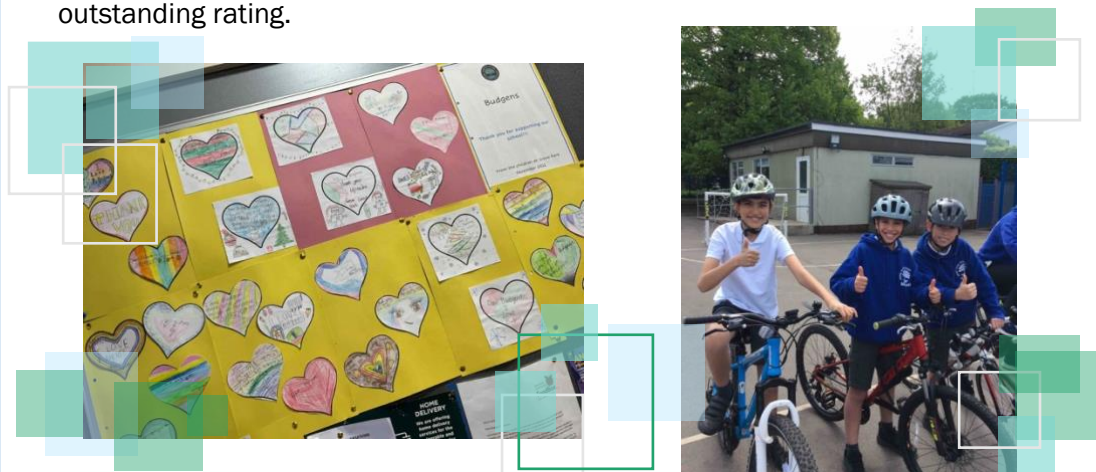
The challenges met so well by school leadership, teachers and staff were different this year but still likely related to the impact of the pandemic lockdowns during which many children were unable to socialise and learn as they normally would have. This year more children came to school needing a bit of extra attention. Throughout the year, all staff have gone beyond their duties to continue to support all our children. The governors are aware of the toll this takes on teachers and staff; we monitor staff well-being regularly through the Staffing and Community Committee and I am regularly updated by the Headteacher. The Governing Board is impressed by the commitment and dedication of teachers and staff to ensure the best learning environment for all the children at Grove Park Primary School.

Academically the children are doing better than before COVID as demonstrated by our published assessment scores. This is impressive. It is certainly due to the extraordinary efforts of the teaching staff as well as to the investment the school made from its reserve in a full-time teacher providing extra capacity to help children who need it. This was an investment well made. It has highlighted the importance of having a sound financial reserve to be able to meet the next major unforeseen challenge.

This year presented other budgetary pressures due to pay rises not funded by the Government. The governors are very grateful to everyone who has supported the PTA-Friends of Grove Park Primary School and particularly to Richard and Alice Grant for their leadership in creating a community of regular supporters – our parents and local businesses. More than raising money these efforts have also given some children opportunities they would not otherwise have had – camp days, cinema, and sporting activities.

Despite the challenges there is so much good about our school. We continue to be at near-full capacity in number of students, bucking the trend of other London schools. This is critically important for the income of the school. We have also seen the school attract well-qualified candidates to fill teaching vacancies, another measure of the school's reputation.

We know that the school's Ofsted inspection is coming closer as it must be carried out by 2025. Through our oversight and through the judgements of peer challenges from other schools, we are quietly confident that the school is in a good position to retain its outstanding rating.



## Chair's Report

One important topic of Ofsted inspections is attendance. For children to learn and to achieve excellent results, they must be in school. It is, therefore, important that children remain in school during term time, unless leave is authorised. Children benefit from learning with their fellow pupils, and it is disruptive to both them and their classmates when they miss school during term time. We encourage parents to take their children on holiday only during scheduled breaks. This will help the school maintain its outstanding rating, providing the learning environment we all want for the children.

During the year the Governing Board saw changes to its membership. We are very pleased to have Marshall Creamer, Adriana Laguna and Ritu Nibber as our new parent governors replacing Maryam Shamanesh, Laura Albery and Rani Price all of whom made many valuable contributions over the years. We have welcomed three co-opted governors - Joshua Maguire, Paul Rogers, and Christine Cosker who all bring fresh insight and experience to the Governing Board. Azim Karimjee served four years on the board and stepped down when his term expired. David Woodward served on the board for nine years, most of which as Chair of the Finance and Premises Committee. Laura Atherton left the board last July. We are grateful to all for their invaluable contributions.

Finally, one day in February the children had the governors in tears - each of us was telephoned by a year-two pupil to thank us for being governors. That alone makes it so worthwhile. Thank you to Rachel Davies, teachers, staff, and children at Grove Park Primary School for allowing us to be your governors. We wish you all the best for your well-earned summer holidays.

*Karen Jorgensen*

*Chair, Governing Board*



## Headteacher's Report

How is it possible that another Summer Term has nearly come to an end! It has gone by in the blink of an eye, and as I look back on my fourth year as Headteacher, there are so many wonderful memories and achievements, developments and events that have made this another amazing year at Grove Park. Throughout 2022/23 the Board of Governors have provided support, challenge, and strategic oversight.

Whilst the pandemic seemed like a distant memory, we were greeted with a new challenge – the ever-present and national issue of school funding. Once again, our whole community pulled together to ensure that the children's education at Grove Park continued to be outstanding. Our community spirit, including words of support and fundraising, never ceases to amaze me – it is obvious that everyone wants the absolute best for our children and their futures.

Our end of Key Stage SATS, Phonics and Multiplication Check results are all superb and testament to our ambitious curriculum and the hard work of the children, staff, and parents – so much to celebrate, despite the challenges we faced. Each term the progress and attainment of all our children and pupil groups has been monitored by the Teaching and Learning Committee. Our Finance & Premises Committee, ably chaired by David Woodward, have worked closely with Miss Rodrigues on all matters concerning finance and premises, particularly ensuring compliance with the Schools Financial Value Standard.

The school and PTA during 2022/23 have been phenomenal and have once again brought our school and local community together in so many ways including sports day, 'Quingo Night' (my favourite) and the legendary Summer Fair. Many of these events were only possible due to the unwavering work of our PTA (Friends of Grove Park Primary School). Rich and Alice Grant have worked tirelessly to create new and meaningful links with our local community and to raise so many precious funds. Thank you will never be enough, Rich and Alice! Also key to our success in this area has been the work of the Staffing and Community Committee – we have analysed staff and parent surveys and pupil voice to help to ensure our success as a school and to plan our future priorities for all stakeholders. Two of our Governors, Charlotte Pendred (Chair of Staffing & Community Committee) and Azim Karimjee were also part of the recruiting team to ensure that we have an inspiring new club provider in place for 2023/24.

The governors all work tirelessly for the good of our young people and it is important that they are part of our daily school life. Many of them joined the Health & Safety and Learning Walks in the Autumn and Summer Terms. During their Learning Walks, the governors toured with visiting Headteachers from our Peer Challenge group to witness learning in action in a range of subjects and in all year groups across the school. The visit culminated in the team agreeing that our Quality of Education is 'Outstanding', and the final report is a true celebration of our school and its high aspiration for all. All our Peer Challenge reports can be viewed [here](#) on our website.



## Headteacher's Report

In the Summer Term, many of our governors also conducted interviews with our Year 6 pupils – the children spoke very positively about many areas of our School Development Strategy (SDS), particularly our visits to places of worship as part of our new Religious Education curriculum. The qualitative data compiled from these interviews is valued by our governors to ensure they can robustly monitor all our work.

Our SDS has focused sharply on further developing our curriculum this year. This includes exploring a new approach to Maths Mastery and an enquiry-based approach to History, Geography and Religious Education across the school. Staff members, led by Mr Hibbert, Mrs McGregor, and Miss Arnauti (who we are going to miss SO much next year) have presented to our governors this year to ensure they know all aspects of our curriculum well, enabling them to monitor our success and outcomes accurately.

Taking learning outside has been a key part of our strategy again this year as we embedded the Outdoor Learning approach that we introduced in 2021/22. We were delighted that governors could see this pedagogy in action during our Peer Challenge visit in the Summer Term. We are excited about the next iteration of our three-year strategy which continues to keep our children's best outcomes at its core, so that we can continue to live out our school motto '*inspiring Each Other*' every day.

My huge thanks to the Board of Governors – their work throughout this year has been phenomenal, as has their commitment to the monitoring of the SDS. The governors' strategic overview and drive for our school is so appreciated, as is their care for our children, staff, and community. During my termly safeguarding meetings with our Named Governors for Safeguarding, Martin Davies and Karen Jorgensen, the well-being of the children and their families is clearly the priority for the work of the Board, and I am truly grateful for their support in this vital area of school life.

We are saying a fond farewell to some long-standing governors who have contributed so much to the life of our school – I will be forever grateful, particularly for your support and guidance through the many challenges that schools faced during the pandemic.

I say it often, because it is true: everyone, no matter what their role at Grove Park, gives so much to our school to make it such a wonderful place to learn and work. This year has been another great success, and everyone has contributed to that. It has truly been a privilege, every day, to be the Headteacher of our wonderful school and to be surrounded by such a kind, dedicated, selfless and ambitious community. We are excited about the new adventures that await us and know that, with the support, views and challenge of the children, governors, staff, and parents, we will ensure we will continue to be an outstanding, inspirational, and aspirational community of learners.

*Rachel Davies*

Headteacher



# Teaching & Learning Committee Report

The Teaching and Learning Committee deals with all matters concerning educational performance of the school and its pupils. This includes safeguarding; the curriculum and the quality of teaching; and pupil achievement, progress, and assessment. Grove Park Primary School (GPPS), led by Miss Davies, excels in all these aspects. The Committee met three times during this year and monitored pupils' progress, the delivery of the School Development Strategy and reports from the safeguarding, pupil premium and SEN leads. These meetings were all virtual.

Highlights of the year include: (1) The work carried out by the Assistant Headteacher, Mr Hibbert, in collaboration with our Maths subject lead, Miss Holman, to implement the new Maths Mastery curriculum – an interactive, whole-class method of teaching maths which is already showing signs of great success; (2) The continuation of outdoor learning pedagogy, which has been observed by Governor's on their regular learning walks in the school. Governors continued to find that children were happy and actively engaged with outdoor learning, across a variety of subjects; (3) In consultation with Chiswick School, the re-development of the history and geography curriculum with a greater focus on solid and broad foundations and how skills in these subjects can be further developed.

The impact of this joined up and contextualised approach to delivering a rich curriculum was seen in consistently high attainment across all groups and a glowing Peer Challenge report in June 2023, which grades the quality of education outstanding.

The Peer Challenge group and we, as Governors, have been impressed by the judicious use of data by Assistant Head Miss Arnaouti to focus on specific groups or areas to target with interventions, particularly utilising small intervention groups for highly focussed work. Miss Arnaouti reported the assessment results for each term, and it was good to see that progress across the classes was excellent, and many children had exceeded expectations. We are particularly pleased that children working at greater depth continue to be significantly above the national levels. Of note is the way in which the provision for children with special educational needs (led by Assistant Head Mrs McGregor) and pupil premium has meant that attainment and progress remains excellent across all groups. Ms Arnaouti, after 10 years at Grove Park, is leaving the school at the end of this term. We thank her for all her hard work and wish her very well in her new position.

As Governors it is impressive to see the emphasis that school leadership place on the children's well-being and mental health. The investment in learning and well-being mentors, the training provided to teachers, parents and carers and children, including a very successful mental health week. We are pleased that all safeguarding issues have been dealt with in a robust and co-ordinated way.

In my first year as chair of this committee, I am grateful to its current members - Virginie Faucon (Vice Chair), Suparna Sukumaran (SEND and Pupil Premium Lead), Qona Rankin, Marshall Creamer, Christine Cosker, Rachel Davies, and Rick McGregor – for their support and commitment. I'd also like to extend my thanks to those governors who have stepped down from the committee this year - Laura Albery, Azim Karimjee, Rani Price, and Maryam Shamanesh. Thanks also to Sally Hewitt for clerking, and to Mr Hibbert, Miss Arnaouti and Mrs McGregor for their informative reports and time, and to Karen Jorgensen (Chair of the Governing Board) for her leadership.

*Martin Davies*

Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee



# Finance & Premises Committee Report

The committee meets once a term to consider the main issues arising and informs the Full Governing Board of any decisions made or if appropriate makes recommendations to the Board for its approval. In this way all significant matters are properly brought to the attention of the Board.

## Finance

Despite pressures from inflation, pay rises and increased utility costs, the school managed to end the year within budget. This was achieved through tight budgetary discipline and considerable staff flexibility, particularly by the Senior Leadership Team who provided cover when staffing gaps arose. However, the recent COVID crisis proved a drain on the school's reserves and governors are accordingly taking steps to return the reserves to pre-COVID levels over the next three years.

## Premises

Major works during the year included a new roof and two new boilers for the old building, all carried out under Hounslow's programme of works for schools. In addition, the school flat has been renovated and is now being used as additional classroom and meeting room space. Regarding school dinners, governors approved a one-year contract extension with the existing service provider.

At the end of the year the school said goodbye to Brian Hardman, the premises manager, who has maintained the school to a very high standard for sixteen years and has additionally served as a school governor. We thank him for all he has done for the school and wish him well in his retirement. The new premises manager is Allun McClean who comes with considerable experience in his field and is already proving himself invaluable in finding much needed funds to help keep the school in good repair.

After nine years as a governor at Grove Park, this was my final governor meeting. I would like to thank school leaders and committee members, past and present, for the support and friendship that has been extended to me during this time. I am delighted to say that Joshua Maguire will be chairing our Finance and Premises Committee going forward and I wish him great success in the role.

*David Woodward*

*Chair, Finance and Premises Committee*



# Staffing & Community Committee Report

The purpose of the Staffing and Community Committee is to oversee the school's relationships with its community including staff, pupils, and parents, together with external partnerships forged within the wider local community. We have had wonderful opportunities this year to witness the tremendous work our community has carried out for the benefit of our school.

One of focusses this year has been understanding how the school promotes and protects the mental health and wellbeing of staff, children, and families. A great deal of work has been done to support all staff in looking after their own wellbeing to ensure children get the best out of their learning. In the wake of the pandemic, and with increasing needs of many children in our school, this has been challenging. However, feedback from our Peer Challenge reports and from our staff has shown that the resilience and resourcefulness of all school staff has enabled the children to continue to thrive.

Another area that the school must concentrate on is attendance. Following the pandemic, the Government has made this a priority area for all schools. Although Grove Park has done consistently well at ensuring high attendance is maintained in comparison to national averages, we cannot be complacent. It is important that our children attend school regularly.

An area of ongoing parent feedback to the school, and through the Parent Forum, was the provision of school clubs. This is something the Committee has had continued visibility of, and we are excited to see how the new provider, Little Foxes, will engage with and enrich the Grove Park community in the coming year.

I would like to thank Miss Rodrigues, Miss Davies, and Jo Lovatt for working incredibly hard to provide the committee with the information we need to understand feedback from staff, parents, and children.

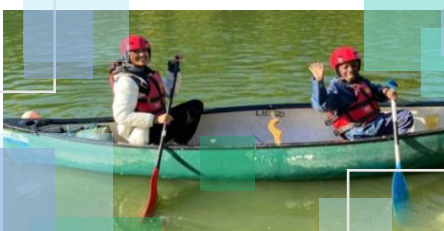
One of the bedrocks of the Grove Park community is the PTA (Friends of Grove Park Primary School). It has a huge impact on all the people linked to our school in so many ways. It brings fun events for children and adults; opportunities to give time, resources, and funds; and brings our community together throughout the year. The kindness brought by all participants and contributors is an example of the ethos of our school in action. As governors we can witness this at the events themselves, but also in the effect that the additional funding has on our environment, staff, and children. A huge thanks goes out to all the PTA volunteers for everything they do. Additional thanks must go to Richard Grant in his role leading the PTA in providing governors with insight into the broader community relationships being developed now that will continue to help the school flourish in the future.

The Committee would also like to thank all the staff for their incredible hard work over the year and bid a fond farewell to those who are moving on to other opportunities. A particular mention goes to Brian Hardman who was given a special send off into retirement from our board chair, Karen Jorgensen, at the end of the Spring Term. He is much missed, although we do keep spotting him at events! Long may those visits continue.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee members for their contribution to the school, and thank our outgoing Vice Chair, Mark Brewer, and welcome one of our long-standing governors, Alice Hyde, in his stead.

*Charlotte Pendred*

Chair of the Staffing and Community Committee



# Governing Board – Who We Are

## Contacting the Board

If you would like to contact us, you can either write to The Chair of Governors c/o Grove Park Primary School, or send a message via the school email address, which is [info@grovepark.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:info@grovepark.hounslow.sch.uk) and we will get in touch.

There are 16 governors at Grove Park. In addition to the Headteacher, the Board is made up of:

- Five Parent Governors, elected by the parents of the children at Grove Park
- One Staff Governor, elected by the staff
- One Local Authority Governor, appointed by the London Borough of Hounslow
- Seven Co-opted Governors, appointed by the Governing Board itself
- One Associate Governor, appointed by the Governing Board itself

Each governor is appointed for a four-year term which can be renewed for a further four years.

## During the 2022 – 2023 year, the Governing Board members have been:

**Karen Jorgensen** (Co-opted Governor) – Chair of Governors

**Mark Brewer** (Co-opted Governor) – Vice-Chair of Governors

**Rachel Davies** - Headteacher

**Martin Davies** (LA Governor) – Chair of the Teaching & Learning Committee

**Joshua Maguire** (Co-opted Governor) – Chair of the Finance & Premises Committee

**Charlotte Pendred** (Parent Governor) – Chair of the Staffing and Community Committee

**Suparna Sukumaran** (Co-opted Governor)

**Alice Hyde** (Co-opted Governor)

**Marshall Creamer** (Parent Governor)

**Virgine Faucon** (Parent Governor)

**Ritu Nibber** (Parent Governor)

**Adriana Laguna** (Parent Governor)

**Christine Cosker** (Co-opted Governor)

**Paul Rogers** (Co-opted Governor)

**Rick McGregor** (Staff Governor)

**Qona Rankin** (Associate Governor)

## Up until November 2022

**Maryam Shamanesh** (Parent Governor)

**Laura Albery** (Parent Governor)

## Up until January 2023

**Rani Price** (Parent Governor)

## Up until June 2023

**David Woodward** (Co-opted Governor)

**Azim Karimjee** (Co-opted Governor)