

Whatever you do in word or deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.  
Colossians 3:17



## Governing Board Newsletter

As the Governing Board for The Blue School, we are committed to engaging and communicating with parents, staff and the wider community. We want to ensure you know who we are, what we do and are kept informed about the running of the school and the key decisions we make. [Who's who](#)

### Letter from the chair - Stephanie Ajayi

The governing board have continued to maintain its strategic role in the functioning of the school during these unusual times. We continue to do this by following the strategic framework which governs how the school will operate, aims, objectives, policies and targets, however have adjusted our priorities in line with the demands of COVID-19 with all committee and full governing body meetings taking place online [Meeting minutes](#). Governors have played a pivotal role in helping to provide a wider sense of perspective and helping the school to get the balance right in managing risk that has allowed for the re-opening of the school to all year groups before the summer break.



The work of the governing board has continued with full governing board meetings and committee meetings taking place online. All governors are encouraged to serve on at least 1 committee which operates in accordance with the 'Terms of Reference'. Additionally, a 'Strategy' meeting takes place in the autumn attended by all governors to explore the vision and ambitions in more depth than is allowed for by the committee agenda. Governors are proud of the way staff have led by example embodying the vision, values and ethos of the school. These uncertain times really test the fabric of the staffing body and yet again our staff have shown their resilience in going the extra mile.

Ordinarily the summer term is filled with performance monitoring, activities, trips and parties with much excitement around Year 6 as we look to say goodbye as they move onto the next stage in their school life. This half term has been unlike any other and we must commend parents for entrusting their children to us in far greater numbers following re-opening and to thank the children who have adopted a can-do attitude and embraced online learning in such a positive way. There is only one way to wrap up what has been a challenging year on so many fronts and that is to thank each one of you for playing your part under the inspirational leadership of the headteacher and wish you all a happy, safe and restful summer and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

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## Our Core Roles

### Strategy



#### SETTING THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- Ensuring clarity of vision
- Engaging and working collaboratively with senior leaders
- Delivering our statutory duties set by government
- Shaping improvement priorities

### Performance



#### HOLDING TO ACCOUNT

- Performance oversight of teaching, achievement, behaviour and safety
- Strengthening school leadership
- Monitoring improvement plan

### Resources



#### ENSURING FINANCIAL CONTROL

- Overseeing financial performance
- Making sure money is well spent
- Financial control

## Health & Safety Report - Simon Shimmens

On 1st June I attended site as link governor to review the implementation of the risk assessments in line with health and safety prior to re-opening for nursery, reception and years 1 and 6. Accompanied by Ms Jones, I toured the site and met with members of staff to review procedures and ensure that appropriate signage was in place to keep social distancing between year group bubbles. It was observed that preparation work carried out by the team has been first class and only very minor adjustments suggested to what was proven to be a very detailed risk assessment.

As part of the governors role to hold the school to account and have oversight of their performance with regard to safety I can offer first hand evidence that all the preparation work had resulted in as safe a working environment as is reasonably practicable under the up to date guidance regarding school 're-opening' during the Covid-19 pandemic. Congratulations were passed on for a great team effort in achieving readiness against a tight deadline.

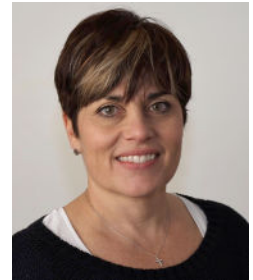


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### Revd Donna Williams

As school years partially returned on 1 June 2020, Revd Peter Vannozi and myself joined the staff in welcoming the children back. We had a tour of the school first and I was particularly struck at how the staff had not only taken into account the extensive guidelines, (and there were an incredible amount of documents to consider), but made decisions on how it would best be effective for the children. I loved that there was a space created for those children who might find it difficult, friendship bubbles were accommodated to the best of their ability and the colour coding around the building made pathways and directions easier to follow.



The greatest delight of the morning was welcoming the children back. The joy to see their friends, their efforts to maintain social distance while trying to catch up and the rather strict reception children holding each other accountable to keeping their gaps in line, all brought a smile to my face. We are made for community, friends and being with each other and we celebrated that to some extent that day.

Ms Jones and the staff team are to be commended on all they have done since March for key workers' children throughout lockdown and in getting the school ready for the year groups to come back at the earliest time. They have done a superb job.

As clergy we continue to hold the staff, the children and the families in our prayers.

### Meetings for academic year 2020/2021

Full Governing Body Meeting	Curriculum Committee	Pay and Personnel Committee	Finance and Building Committee
7th October	22nd September	23rd September	24th September
2nd December	17th November	18th November	19th November
24th February	9th February	10th February	11th February
19th May	4th May	5th May	6th May
14th July	29th June	30th June	1st July

### Governors Strategy Morning - 25th September, 2020

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## **NOTE**

We welcome comments from parents directly and letters should be addressed to the Chair and delivered or emailed to the school office. Whilst we welcome letters and value your comments, we will be unable to respond to issues relating to the day to day running of the school.