



Camp School Governors Newsletter 2016/17

Welcome to our Camp School Governors newsletter for 2016/17. We thought it would be useful to explain a bit about the role of the Governors, what we've been doing this year, and say a bit about the school's finances. We hope you find this update useful, and would welcome any feedback.



The role of the Governors

The Governing Body [pictured] is made up of staff, parents and other members of our local community. We provide strategic leadership for the school and help ensure every child gets the best possible education. In the eyes of the law, the purpose of governing bodies at state maintained schools is to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement.

Recent activity

The biggest decision the Governing Body had to take this year was the appointment of a new Head Teacher, following Louise Cornock's resignation. This necessarily involved an extensive and thorough process, but we were delighted to appoint from within the school. Since her appointment we have continued to support Sharon Barton as she leads the school forward.

Our primary role as Governors is to support the school whilst holding it to account for its performance. During the last two years, Camp has had to address the challenges involved with the changes to the National Curriculum and the way pupils are assessed, and we have supported the school to help ensure the changes have been as smooth as possible.

Another key area of focus is ensuring that all our policies are up to date and fit for purpose. In addition to these key responsibilities, meetings often cover current issues within the school and there can be lively debate. The adoption of the 'Daily Mile' was initially raised at a Governors' meeting, and recent changes to the signing up process for parent/teacher consultations were



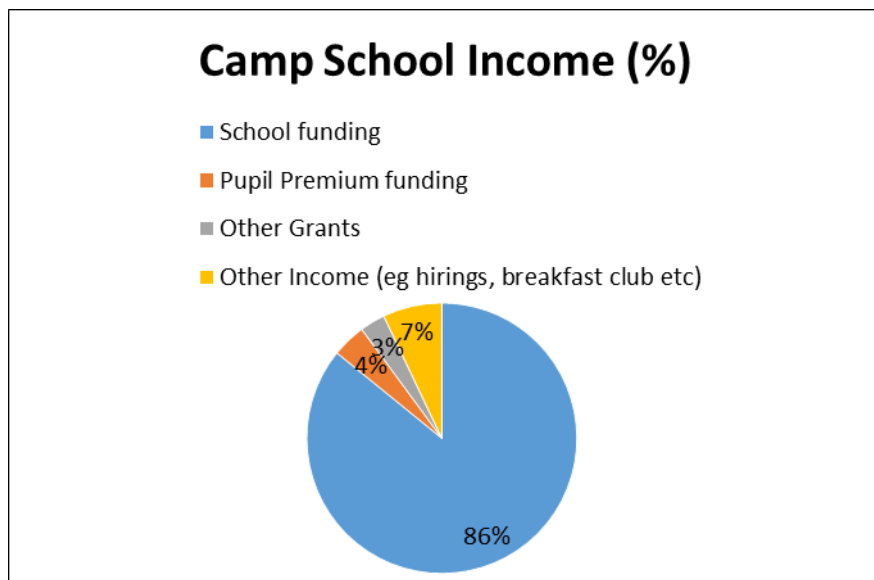
implemented following discussion with Governors. Road safety has been a key issue in recent years; the 20mph limit is now in place, with ongoing pressure for more safety measures. In January the Governors spent a morning in the school visiting classes and other activities, and Governors participated in the recent School Development Plan INSET day.

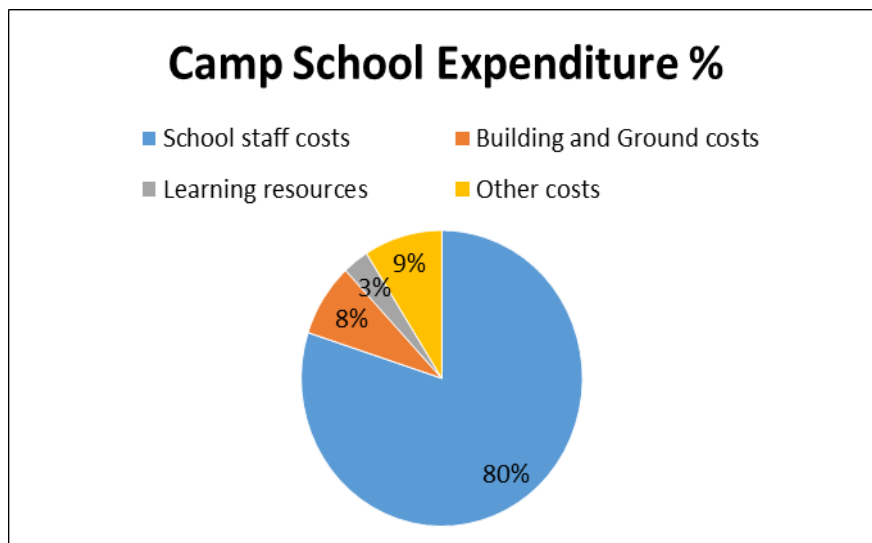
Finances

The school budget is a major area of focus for the Governing Body, and will continue to require much attention in the coming years. As you will be aware from media reports, school budgets nationally are subject to decreases in real terms.

Camp receives around 90% from Hertfordshire County Council, out of education funding it receives from the Government. All schools have seen their income tighten and this is set to continue over the next few years. With costs, such as salaries and utility bills rising, it means all schools, including Camp, have to be prudent when spending money and look for ways to raise additional funding.

Below are two graphs that show from where the school receives its income and how this is spent by the school. As you can see, Camp spends the majority of its money on staff. At Camp, the children benefit from a good pupil-teacher ratio of 16:1 – which is higher than most schools similar to ours.





The last financial year (2016/17), was quite exceptional in that the school spent less money than it took in. This was due to one-off factors involved with staff changes, and increased attendance at the breakfast and after school club. We have set aside this modest surplus to help us in future years, including upcoming costs associated with the running track and maintenance requirements. The school is also fortunate in having a modest 'carry over', which has protected us in past years when we have spent more than we have received, and provides contingency in the case of major unforeseen expenditure. But the pressures we now face are likely to diminish this and we need to respond accordingly.

We do not expect to make a surplus again and in future years, as in previous, expect to need to spend more than we will receive. Camp has already implemented various efficiency savings (e.g. replacing light bulbs to more energy efficient ones and switching utility providers).

Finding new revenue streams

The school is determined that financial restraints should not affect the children and the quality of teaching they receive. Consequently, the Governing Body has decided to look at other ways to raise income (e.g. rental of school premises, application for grants) for the school by creating a 'Revenue Task Force'.

We would like parents and carers to be involved with this Task Force. If you have ideas and feel you could help, please contact the school office or email our Chair of Governors, Tim Powell (gov.powell@herts.sch.uk).

Summary

As Governors we voluntarily commit time and effort to our work but enjoy being involved with a school that aims for the very best for its pupils within a supportive environment. Becoming a regional winner in the 2016 Pupil Premium Awards showed what the school is capable of achieving. We would like to thank the children, staff, parents/carers, and all those involved in making Camp School special!