



Camp School Governors Newsletter – September 2023

At the start of a new school year, this newsletter explains the role of Camp's governors and what we've been up to in the last 12 months. We hope you find this interesting and informative, particularly those new to the school community. Any feedback is welcome!

The role of the Governors

The Governing Body 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 is to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. More information, including names of all Governors, can be found on the [school website](#).

Governing Body changes

This summer we said a fond farewell to three governors, Assistant Head Ruth Rose, Gavin Bostock, (who stepped down as Chair), and long serving vice-chair Judy Robinson. Earlier in the school year Hollie Rendall (who has children in Year 3 and Reception) joined as a new parent governor and this summer we welcomed Katia Lebedeva as a new community governor.



Preparing for (and experiencing!) Ofsted

It was another busy year, and that continued right until the end with the school receiving an Ofsted inspection in the penultimate week of the summer term! The inspection included an interview session with governors to talk about how they contribute to the leadership of the school, and how they evidence the school's progress in delivering on its priorities and policies. The governing body was aware that an Ofsted inspection would be coming (but not exactly when!) and had prepared extensively for it, including a workshop to discuss the evidence we would present. The governors were keen to do their best to highlight all that the school is achieving, and our role in supporting that. Hopefully we did a good job in both respects!

Vision and Values

Another priority for Governors last year was to support the school in developing and introducing new Vision and Values. This work started with last summer's School Development Day, which all staff and some governors attended, and continued into the school year. This identified the importance the school places on knowing every child; the importance of Camp's



position/place in the community; and of 'Bringing learning to life'. It was agreed that this should remain the school's strapline and was enshrined in the new mosaic in the school's entrance hall.

Supporting the work of the school

Each governor has a role as a 'link' for a subject within the curriculum and supports the relevant subject leader in the delivery of their action plan. Governors carry out subject visits to see its implementation and impact, including talking with pupils, and by attending school assemblies with a subject focus.

The attainment and progress data of pupils is regularly discussed with Governors. We are encouraged that the school continues to perform strongly in its SATs results, and demonstrates pupil progress and attainment across a range of backgrounds and abilities.

Camp's School Development Plan for the year 2021-22 included a focus on developing Art as an exemplary subject in the way it was taught and delivered. The school's efforts led to it receiving the Silver Artsmark award from the Arts Council England, underlying the 'tangible results' of its Art teaching.

Camp's School Development Plan for 2022-23 included specific objectives relating to its Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) provision. The SEND Governor works closely with the SEND coordinator and produces the annual SEND report to Governors. This sets out the progress the school continues to make in developing its SEND provision, including in areas like pupil awareness of their own objectives/targets and in enabling parental engagement.

A regular update is provided on Safeguarding at meetings, and the Safeguarding Governor worked closely with the school's leadership team in an extensive audit. This was done to ensure the school's Safeguarding provisions continue to be fully aligned with all current requirements.

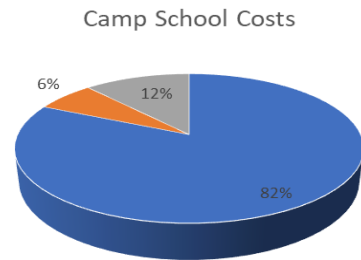
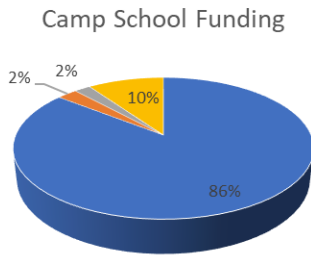
Other areas of Governor activity include:

- Health & Safety (H&S), with the H&S Governor taking part in an annual tour of the premises with the Site Manager to ensure any concerns are logged and addressed.
- Pupil Premium Strategy. Like all schools, Camp receives Pupil Premium funding to help improve the attainment of disadvantaged children. Camp has a three-year strategy in place to ensure the funding is being targeted to meet identified needs. Governors participate in an annual review of the strategy and its results.
- PE & Sports Premium. Governors also review a statutory report the school produces on how it is spending this funding to develop the physical health and wellbeing of pupils.
- Attendance. Like many schools, Camp has seen a small drop in attendance levels since the pandemic. Governors receive regular reports on attendance data and the various steps the school is taking to ensure the issues involved are being addressed.
- Policies. All school policies come to the Governing Body to be reviewed – whilst many are heavily driven by statutory requirements there is often scope to ensure they are suitably tailored to the needs of Camp.



Finances

The school budget is a major area of focus for the Governing Body, and is discussed with them in detail when set, with further updates during the year. The first graph shows from where the school receives its income. Camp receives around 91% from Hertfordshire County Council, out of education funding it receives from the Government.



■ School Funding ■ Pupil Premium Funding ■ SEN Funding ■ Other Income (eg. Hiring, B)

■ School Staff Costs ■ Learning Resources ■ Building and Ground

The second graph shows how the school spends its money, with the majority of it being spent on staff. With various cost pressures, Camp has done very well with the resources it has but it is increasingly challenging for the school to operate within its means. As can be seen in the next bar chart, Camp spends a higher percentage of its income on staff than other local schools, and this reflects a conscious approach by the leadership to prioritise resources in this way.

Staff total (Percentage of total income)



With the national situation leading to money being tight for all schools, we continue to work to carefully manage the budget and to look for other ways to raise and save money. We're thankful to all those who support the school by raising money through PA events, initiatives and donations. This has funded certain projects such as the new hall projector that might otherwise have had to be covered by the school budget. If people are interested in long term hirings for clubs etc please get in touch with the school office.

Summary

Once a term the Governors have a written report from the Head Teacher on recent school progress and activities. It is always heartening to read of the breadth and extent of the enrichment activity that the school is providing across all ages. As Governors we are pleased with the school's academic results, but also that the school provides a learning and nurturing environment which cares for the 'whole child'. We would like to thank the school's leadership, staff, children, parents/carers, and all those who continue to make Camp School special!