Camp Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5PG Tel: 01727 851056 Fax: 01727 855959 www.camp.herts.sch.uk

Camp School Governors Newsletter – November 2024

Welcome to our annual Governors Newsletter which explains a bit about the role of Camp School's governors and what we've been up to in the last year. We hope you find this interesting and informative, particularly those new to the school community. We have a Parent Governor vacancy arising soon, so stay tuned if you want to know more about what we do!

The role of the Governors

The Camp School Governing Board is made up of staff, parents and other members of our local community. Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable the school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children.

We meet at least every half term to consider issues such as setting the school vision, mitigating financial risk and scrutinising educational outcomes. We are also involved in the school community, acting as critical friends to the head teachers and senior leaders. Each governor has a link role for the different areas of responsibility (such as safeguarding, assessment and curriculum, and finance) as well as a curriculum subject.

More information, including names of all Governors, can be found on the school website and the National Governance Association website.

Governing Board changes

Over the last year, we said a fond farewell to associate governor, Pritam Vekaria. We are so grateful to Prit for his valuable support, especially in respect of changes to our senior leadership team structure. We have also welcomed Anne-Marie Hassenkamp as a new governor. Several governors changed their roles last year and a new Chair and Vice-Chair were appointed.

Ofsted follow up

Last year we reported about our involvement with the Ofsted Inspection which took place in July 2023. The report was very positive and confirmed that Camp Primary and Nursery School maintained its GOOD rating. Governors were pleased with all the strengths recognised by the inspector and have spent time reflecting with senior leaders on the one area identified for improvement.

Co-headship arrangement

A key priority for the Governing Board last year was the successful establishment of a new co-headship arrangement and, following a robust recruitment process, the permanent appointment of Rachel Rowe to lead the school alongside Sharon Barton.

School Development Plan (SDP)

Every year, Governors are involved in the development of this plan by attending the annual all-staff SDP inset day. Last year's priorities included enhancing the effectiveness of SEND interventions, providing targeted support for staff in key curriculum areas, further training staff in therapeutic behaviour strategies, promoting positive mental health and wellbeing, and further developing parental engagement in the school community. We have monitored progress against these priority areas by receiving written updates from and meeting with senior leaders and relevant staff members.

Camp Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5PG Tel: 01727 851056 Fax: 01727 855959 www.camp.herts.sch.uk

Supporting the work of the school

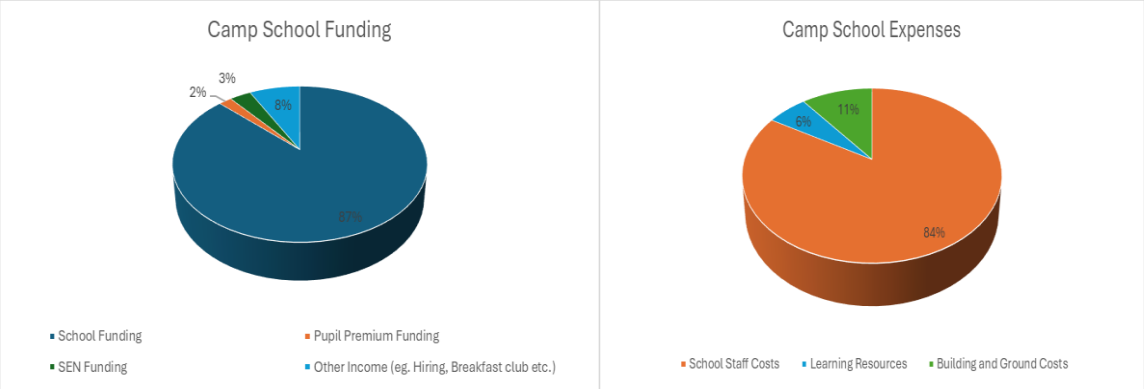
- Curriculum - Each governor supports the relevant subject leader in the delivery of their action plan. Curriculum is central to Ofsted's framework, and schools need to demonstrate the 'intent, implementation and impact' of their offering. Governors attend annual subject visits to see its implementation and impact, including talking with pupils, and also 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 excellent pupil progress and attainment across a range of backgrounds and abilities.
- Safeguarding - The Safeguarding Governor works closely with senior leaders to ensure policy and practice is up to date and that safeguarding remains a high priority within the school. A regular update is provided at every meeting.
- Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) - Camp's School Development Plan for 2023-24 included specific objectives relating to its SEND provision, particularly in relation to the effectiveness of interventions. The SEND Governor works closely with the SEND coordinator and produces an annual report to Governors.
- Behaviour – The Governing Board is responsible for setting the behavioural principles for the school, which act as a framework for the Headteachers and teaching staff to develop and implement the Behavioural and Anti-Bullying Policies.
- Personal Development – Once a term, Governors receive a written report from the Headteachers on recent school activities. It is always a pleasure to hear about the extent of the enrichment activity that the school provides across all ages.
- Health & Safety (H&S) – the H&S Governor takes part in an annual tour of the premises with the Site Manager to ensure any concerns are logged and addressed. Last year, Governors were involved in reviewing the results of an external audit to ensure all current requirements are being met.
- 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 - Governors receive regular reports on attendance data and the various steps the school is taking to ensure any barriers to regular attendance are being addressed.
- Risk – Governors worked with the Headteachers to develop and monitor a risk register.
- 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 School.

Camp Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5PG Tel: 01727 851056 Fax: 01727 855959 www.camp.herts.sch.uk

Finances

The school budget is a major area of focus for the Governing Board. Due to nationwide challenges around school funding, we also set up a new working group to review the financial sustainability of the school.

The first graph shows from where the school receives its income. Camp receives around 87% from Hertfordshire County Council, out of education funding it receives from the Government.



The second graph shows how the school spends its money, with the majority of it being spent on staff.

Camp has done fantastically well with the resources that it has over the last few years but has been squeezed on many fronts in the same way that we all have. The financial resilience that was there a few years ago has started to be eroded away. Camp has done everything it can to maintain its standards with these extra pressures. Hopefully with the changes to the school budgets set out in the new budget, the financial strength of the school will improve.

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 purchasing the new dining tables 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

As Governors, we are incredibly proud of our school and privileged to be able to support the staff to make it the best it can be. It was therefore delightful to hear feedback from one of our pupils who recently told us '*But it already is!*'. Camp School has achieved excellent academic success over the last year and also continues to provide a nurturing learning 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!