

# STANLEY PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL

Stanley Park Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3JL

*A Foundation School in the London Borough of Sutton*

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A "Sense of Pride"

21 July 2022

Dear Parents

The past year has presented many challenges for the education sector as we return to normality following the pandemic. Covid 19 has continued to cause high levels of absence among staff and pupils. This has significantly increased pressure on our dedicated members of staff, including teachers managing an increased workload, and front office staff dealing with understandably frustrated parents.

Despite the challenges, this has been a successful and happy year for our school. We love seeing parents in school for assemblies, concerts and performances. Our new OPAL playground scheme ensures children can make the most of playtime, promoting imaginative, creative play and positive interaction between pupils – vital after a long period of disrupted education!

We're very proud of our Year 6 pupils who performed exceptionally well in their SATs with 82% of pupils meeting age-related expectations across all subjects! It has been a privilege to watch them grow into successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens, and we wish them well for the next stage in their journey as they move to secondary school in September.

There have been some changes to our Governing Body this year. We said farewell to Staff Governor, Fiona Glithero; Parent Governor, Chris Wickes; and Local Authority Governor, Moira Butt. We thank all of them for their hard work and dedication to school governance. We also grieved the loss of Glenda Grant, who passed away in the autumn. Her contribution to SPJS over many years both as a teacher, SENDCo and Partnership Governor will be celebrated through a new award for resilience to be presented at Friday's end of year assembly.

Providing a high-quality education for our pupils requires a partnership between school and parents/carers. We're extremely grateful for the hard work of all staff members and the support we get from parents that makes this happen.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the unstinting enthusiasm and good humour of our Headteacher, Mrs Lamy, who, with the support of our outstanding leadership team has risen to the many challenges we have faced in the past 12 months, to ensure all our children receive the very best education possible here at SPJS.

We wish you all happy and healthy summer break!

Emma Clements & Julie Smith

**Co-Chairs**

PS. We always welcome suggestions and feedback from parents. If you would like to get in touch, please email us: [eclements4@suttonmail.org](mailto:eclements4@suttonmail.org) and [jsmith364@suttonmail.org](mailto:jsmith364@suttonmail.org)

# Annual Governance Statement for Stanley Park Junior School

## Summer 2022

### Strategic Functions

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Stanley Park Juniors school Governing Body are to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure its money is well spent.

### Governance Arrangements

Our Governing Body consists of the following:

- 3 Parent Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 1 Staff Governor
- 1 Headteacher
- 2 Partnership Governors
- 6 Co-opted Governors

For a list of Governors, their areas of responsibility and attendance record please visit our website: [www.spjs.org/governors](http://www.spjs.org/governors)

The Full Governing Body meets four times each year including a Business Meeting with school staff at the start of the academic year, and termly Full Governing Body Meetings.

Many aspects of school governance are devolved to committees which meet termly to consider specific areas in more detail.

### SPJS Committees

We currently have the following committees:

#### 1. Curriculum and Standards

This committee ensures the curriculum is being taught in line with DfE guidelines and the Ofsted Inspection Framework and monitors data relating to pupil performance and progress. They also review the School Development Plan and Self-Evaluation Form. All members of the Governing Body are encouraged to 'link' with a subject leader, to meet termly and to report back to this committee. All policies relating to curriculum and standards are reviewed by this committee.

#### 2. Personnel

This committee is responsible for all staffing issues relating to teaching and non-teaching staff, including staffing structures and all employment policies. Areas for discussion include new appointments, annual leave and absence, and the financial implications of personnel issues. All information shared at this committee is anonymized in accordance with guidelines.

### 3. Finance

This committee meets to scrutinise our school accounts, approve expenditure and ensure our budget is managed effectively, and that funds intended for specific purposes (eg. Pupil Premium and Sports Grant) are being used to improve pupil outcomes. The School Business Manager provides a three-year budget to allow forward planning.

### 4. Premises

The premise committee conducts a termly walk around school premises to ensure our buildings and premises are fit for purpose, and all aspects of health and safety are adhered to. Any building projects or improvements, such as the new reception area, are discussed and agreed in this committee.

In addition to our four core committees, governors either individually or in working groups, also take responsibility for overseeing the following essential aspects of the school:

#### ➤ Safeguarding

SPJS is committed to providing all pupils, staff and visitors with a safe and inclusive environment, and we believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. A dedicated Safeguarding Governor ensures all safeguarding policies and procedures are adhered to, through Headteacher meetings, safeguarding training, central record checks and regular learning walks, many of which are unannounced.

#### ➤ SEND

To ensure all pupils with special educational needs receive the very best support we can offer, we have a dedicated SEND governor who works closely with the school's SENDCO, and provides rigorous scrutiny of our SEND offer.

#### ➤ Diversity & Inclusion

We have recently created a new working group to monitor diversity and inclusion across all areas of school life, including staffing and governance, curriculum, resources and policies.

### **Our Impact**

2021-2022 was a busy year for SPJS governors.

Here are some of the things we have focused on in the past year:

- Reconstituted the Governing Body to increase the number of Co-opted Governors. These are governors appointed by the board to ensure have the skills and expertise in key areas (eg finance, HR) to fulfil our duties.
- We ensured the school adhered rigorously to government policy relating to the provision of education during the pandemic, including monitoring provision for home learning where required, and ensuring we complied with all recommendations to keep pupils, staff and parents safe.
- Staff and pupil well-being and mental health has been a priority for governors. For example, we have scrutinised the results of regular staff surveys and visited to school to talk to staff.

- We returned to face-to-face meetings after the disruption caused by Covid and were able to resume visits to school including link governor meetings, learning walks and other monitoring visits.
- We established a Diversity Working Group to ensure our commitment goes beyond our Equality Policy and is embedded in all areas of school activity.
- All members of the Governing Body have undergone training in preparation for our forthcoming Ofsted inspection.
- We monitored attendance which is currently 95% (and 92.6% for Pupil Premium. This is an improvement on previous year and is above national average.
- Reviewed numerous school policies and procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose, in accordance with DfE guidance.
- Overseen the implementation of the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Playground Scheme which seeks to strategically and sustainably improve the quality of play opportunities for all pupils. <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>
- Approved and arranged the installation of a defibrillator
- Ensured that the statutory pay policy and appraisal cycle is adhered to.
- Gained a clear understanding of the new curriculum, quality of teaching and progress and attainment from regular meetings and analysis of school data.
- Consistently questioned and challenged the school staff and leadership team, as evidenced in our committee meeting minutes, to ensure they are being held to account for their decision, and to improve outcomes for our pupils.

We are still working on:

- Regular training, specific to governors' individual roles and responsibilities.
- Political developments that affect the education system, particularly with regard to academisation.
- Reducing persistent absence (15.7% including Covid) and monitoring unauthorised absence, particularly the increased requests for term-time holidays.
- Recruiting individuals from underrepresented groups to join our governing body.
- Updating our skills audit to ensure we have the broad range of skills and expertise needed for governance.
- Returning to a regular programme of governor monitoring visits including increased interaction with pupils to discuss their learning.

### **Governing Body Meeting Minutes**

These are available to read upon request from our Headteacher, Mrs A Lamy.