



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

Chair of Governor's Annual Report to parents and carers of students at Hampstead School: the 2023-24 academic year in review.

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to enable governors to be more accountable to parents by: -

- informing parents of our activities.
- celebrating the successes of the school's activities.
- demonstrating the impact of our governance.
- and enabling the governors to continue our self-review.

You can find out more about the governors from Hampstead School's website [Hampstead School - Governors' Biographies](#).

Contact details:

The Head is Matthew Sadler, and the Chair of Governors is Jacob Sam.

The school's website is www.hampsteadschool.org.uk

The school's address is Westbere Road, London NW2 3RT.

The email contact for the school is enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk

The telephone contact for the school is 020 7794 8133.

Who we are and our main responsibilities:

The membership of the governing body can be found on the website.

Our 4 core functions are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation, and well-being of its students and staff, as well as performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making certain its money is well spent.
4. Ensuring the voices of stakeholders (students, staff and the local community) are heard.

Background to the report:

We are pleased to present this report, showcasing the achievements and developments within our school and governing body. We highlight the unwavering dedication, and hard work of our senior leaders, teachers, non-teaching staff and students. We are also grateful to the parents and carers for their invaluable support.

As we reflect on this academic year, we have streamlined the committee structure to reflect the Senior leaders' responsibilities, which meant the head teacher did not need to attend all committees. This has improved the head's work life balance.

We bade farewell to Mavis McLean, who was an esteemed and long-standing safeguarding governor and to Jake Whiterod who resigned as he moved abroad. We are now looking for a young governor for the co-opted vacancy. We benefit greatly from our Clerk, a Governance Professional who has been extremely useful with her wider experience of other schools.

This report underscores our unwavering commitment to excellence, continuous improvement, and the collaborative efforts of our entire school community. We are proud of the school's achievements and the continuing progress all have made since our Ofsted inspection last summer term.

The governors' vision for the school.

The third year of our strategic plan is proving useful in our self-review. We RAG-rated (Red – yet to start, Amber – on the way, Green – completed) against key targets. The plan shows that most of our targets have been met, however there is still an aim to maintain effective improvement and performance in our governing activities. An updated plan was presented to governors during the summer term 2024 to reflect the continuing progress of the priorities identified by Ofsted April 2023. The governors have worked with senior leaders on the school's vision, which was started at an 'Away Day' in March 2023.

As is our normal practice there will be an election of a chair of governors in September 2024 for a period of one year. The new chair is likely to be leading the school through some potentially significant changes, due to smaller student numbers in primary schools in the local area, and the impact this could have on school budgets. With the recent change in UK government, the governors will have to be prepared to support the school in any new initiatives.

Holding leaders to account:

Named governors take on specific statutory responsibilities for the following areas, and report back to the governing body each year: - safeguarding, special educational needs and disability (SEND), careers guidance, pupil premium spending, health and safety, and data protection. Governors have been supporting the senior leadership team with embedding good behaviour and improving attendance along with best practices in the culture of Hampstead School. The governors regularly visited the school throughout the academic year to ensure all aspects of the school were monitored and attended events within and outside the school. Based on this and challenges in committees we are generally pleased with the progress of the school.

Training:

Governors attended training by Camden Learning on various topics covering governor induction, equity, inclusion and diversity, effective recruitment, Prevent and SEND during the year. Camden Learning is a school supported structure to enhance education in Camden schools. Individual governors have also attended training sessions provided by The National Governors' Association, and in addition we have also added a short 5-to-10-minute training session in each of our meetings provided by a member of staff or a senior leader.

Finances:

Governors were able to approve a balanced budget for the financial year 2024-25, because we had a carry-over from earlier years plus a small in-year surplus in financial year 2023-24. This has meant we are in a better position to manage the severe financial pressures from falling rolls. The school is also in a good place from a staffing point of view for the coming academic year.

Governors and senior leaders have initiated a process of establishing more strategic approaches to fund raising, alongside the already well-established hiring out of the premises, particularly the sports facilities and swimming pool.

Stakeholders:

Governors are improving their communication with stakeholders in the life of the school, for example, through the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and individual governors attending student council meetings.

Let us know how we are doing.

Governors are keen to know what parents think of the school, and how you think the governors are doing. We welcome any suggestions- please send any comments to Lyn Stanton, Clerk to the governors clerktothegoverningboard@outlook.com.

We express our gratitude to all parents and carers for your unwavering support and your integral role in our journey.



Jacob Leonard Sam
Chair of Governors 2023-24.

Hunter Danskin and Paul Stratton
Vice Chairs of Governors 2023-24.