



NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS AT BENTHAL

This is the first of a new termly newsletter from the Governing Body at Benthal, keeping you up-to-date and better informed about who we are and what we do.

Your Governors

The Governing Body of Benthal Primary School is made up of parent governors, school elected representatives, co-opted governors, a local authority appointed governor and the Headteacher.

Who We Are

Ms Louise Drew, Headteacher

Ms Jo Carter, Chair of Governors

Link Governor for Leadership and Management

Following a 4-year term as a parent Governor I was co-opted as a Community Governor in 2017. I am Artistic Director of Immediate Theatre; a Hackney based participatory arts charity and bring expertise in good governance as well as a thorough understanding of the local environment in terms of both the statutory and voluntary sector.

Mrs Fatima Hafeji, Staff Governor

Link Governor for Health and Safety

I am currently a teaching assistant at Benthal and have been for the past 15 years and I am also a part-time foster carer. I joined in 2018 so that I could use my experience with children to ensure that they get the best possible start to life in all aspects.

Ms Mandy Ayres, Community Governor

Link Governor for Marketing

I currently run executive leadership programmes, supporting elite athletes to prepare for life after competition. I worked for 12 years at Nike leading their Global Community Impact team creating lasting legacies for young people where ever Nike had a footprint. I am passionate about bringing this experience to support a local school and joined Benthal in the summer of 2018 to support the school to tell its story.

Mr Henry Greenwood, Community Governor

Link Governor for Teaching and Learning

I was a secondary school Maths teacher for twelve years at schools in Enfield and Hackney. I set up and run Green Schools Project, which helps schools to get their students to lead environmental projects. I joined as a governor earlier this year as I wanted to learn more about how primary schools work and to support a school in my local area.

Ms Matilda Astle, Community Governor

Link Governor for Safeguarding and Pupil Welfare

I have worked in the field of child protection for twenty years. I have two children who both went to Benthal and are now in secondary school. I joined the governing body four years ago as the safeguarding link governor with the hope that my experience would be of help to the school.

Mr Nathan Waddington, Community Governor

I work in the media making and selling children's television programmes. Prior to that I was a classroom assistant (as they used to be called) for four years in schools in Sussex and Kingston. My entire working life has been focused on children and young people so becoming a governor felt like the right thing to do. Three years later, it still does!

Councillor Sem Moema, Local Authority Governor

I have been a governor since 2016 and I am also one of three ward councillors. My role as a councillor is to represent the interests of Hackney Downs residents at Hackney Council. As a school governor, I work with the other governors and headteacher on a range of issues, advocating for pupils, parents and teaching staff at the school.

Mrs Shabnum Hassan, Parent Governor

Link Governor for Inclusion

I'm a full-time parent at present but have worked in education for many years, supporting children with additional and complex needs (SEND). I joined in 2018 because I wanted to use my experience to help our school encourage and support all our children to be the best they can be, so that no child is left behind.

Ms Stella Sandford, Community Governor

Link Governor for Pupil Outcomes

I teach philosophy at Kingston University and I was previously a governor there. I joined Benthal governing body in 2018, when my own children had finished at another Hackney primary school because I wanted to contribute to education services in the Borough.

Mrs Susannah Barker, Parent Governor

Link Governor for Stakeholder Voice

I work in the media, making history, science and documentary programmes for television. I joined as a governor in 2016 because I have a long-held interest in education and children's wellbeing. As a parent at the school I wanted to get involved in helping to develop a school that I feel passionately committed to.

Mr Tom Hindson, Community Governor

Link Governor for Finance and Premises

I joined the Governing Body this term, having been introduced to Benthal through a scheme supported by my employer. I work in the finance industry and am hoping to use this background to help deliver the best school and environment possible for the students at Benthal.

The Role of the Governing Body

The role of the governors is to seek to ensure that the school operates in a way that provides the best possible educational experience for all of its children in a safe and stimulating environment where the aspirations of all are high.

In addition to this we also have a number of significant statutory roles to perform concerned with ensuring that the school operates in a fair and efficient way achieving best value for money.



Governors have no role to play in the day-to-day running of the school but they do maintain a strategic overview of what the school should be aiming to achieve for all of the children. They also hold the senior leadership team to account for the performance of the school.

The governors at the school also regard it as fundamentally important that the school operates in as transparent a manner as possible in all that it does. We are striving to improve communication and to ensure that the school provides all parents and carers with all the information they require for them to assess how the school is performing. We believe that by doing so we maintain an impetus for continued improvement.

Blog

Learners – Susannah

It was great to see Magic Breakfast, a brilliant new breakfast club, launch at Benthall earlier this term as we know that children who have had a nutritious breakfast are able to concentrate better, have more energy and improved behaviour which all has a really positive impact on their learning.

Achievers – Henry

I thoroughly enjoyed my first governor visit to meet the lead teachers for literacy, maths and science. I visited lots of classes and it was brilliant to see the enthusiasm of all the children who were hard at work on their spellings, phonics and improving their literacy.

Friends – Shabnum

It was fantastic to see so many families braving the winter chill to attend the Winter Fair. A great time was had by all and we even managed to raise over £2,200, so a huge success! Highlights included a visit to Santa's Grotto, raffle, face painting, toys and books, cake stall, arts and crafts, with much more besides. A massive thank you to all those who helped out, with a special mention to Vicky Marks, Davina Stevens and everyone at Friends of Benthall. It was an amazing community effort!

Meetings

Full Governing Body – 11th September, 11th December

Finance & Premises Committee – 16th October

Curriculum Committee – 27th November

The minutes of Full Governing Body meetings are made available on the website as soon as they are agreed in addition to being available in the school office.

Updates

Despite a challenging environment including budget cuts for schools, Benthall has managed to maintain a balanced budget, still meeting this year's pay rise for teachers announced in September.

The school has a relatively low turnover of staff and our teachers are almost exclusively good to outstanding.

Hackney Learning Trust have decided that due to falling demand for school places across the borough, Benthall School is no longer moving sites in the foreseeable future. Hackney Learning Trust is now able to make a much-needed investment into the school premises and there will be a programme of repairing, replacing and upgrading various parts of the school over the next year or so – watch out for a new and improved Benthall School!

Contact

If you would like to contact the governors please email us at the following address:

governors@benthall.hackney.sch.uk.

Any feedback on the newsletter is welcome.

Please note that emails are reviewed weekly and matters which concern the day-to-day running of the school will be passed on to the Headteacher.