

Courtwood Primary School Governors Annual Report 2016 – 2017



Chair of Governors Statement

Welcome to the first Annual Governors Report from Courtwood Primary, I hope this report will give you information about what happens at Courtwood to help educate our children. Despite lots of challenges to cope with Courtwood has had a positive year with pupils progressing with their studies. We are really lucky to have our Forest School space 'Wise Owl Woods' and our Enhanced Learning Provision 'The Treehouse'.

Courtwood Governors work hard to help promote the school and ensure that the school is delivering value for money while providing a solid start to our pupils education. I would like to thank all the Governors for their dedication to helping the school, and our Staff for their hard work and perseverance to help pupils progress.

The Governors are very pleased that our Reception Class for September 2017 is again over subscribed as Courtwood is a good, popular school. Other schools around Croydon are facing challenges as there is a dip in pupil numbers, causing some schools significant funding issues.

If you would like to contact the Governors please either telephone the School Office or email me al.roseweir@courtwood.net

I hope you have a great holiday and the pupils return back in September ready for another exciting year.

Al Roseweir

Chair of Governors

Curriculum

The curriculum at Courtwood is ever flexible in response to both local and national changes at Government level. As well as all the traditional core subjects you would expect, such as maths and literacy, and the foundation subjects such as history and DT, we also try to give our children experiences that can be linked in a cross-curricular way and give them access to events such as Forest School. These experiences are often invaluable as they promote lifelong learning skills such as cooperation, teamwork, compromise and perseverance, alongside the academic knowledge. All teachers are subject leaders and take responsibility for ensuring high standards are maintained in each year group for their subject area. This means we are able to ensure events such as themed weeks and competitions are able to happen.

We are delighted that our end of year results for both Reception class and the year 2 SATs reflect the high standards required by the National Curriculum and demonstrate how well pupils have done across a range of subjects. Our KS2 results are in line with our predictions and reflect the prior attainment of this class at KS1. Progress measures (detailing in-year progress) are more favourable and take into account the interventions put in place by all staff at Courtwood, to support this cohort in their learning.

Reception: 69% of children achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD).



End of Key Stage 1 (Year 2)	Children achieving at least the Expected Standard	Children exceeding the standard – Working at Greater Depth	Children Working Towards the Expected Standard
SATs Results			
Reading	80%	27%	20%
Writing	77%	20%	23%
Maths	80%	30%	20%

End of Key Stage 2 (Year 6)	Children achieving at least the Expected Standard	Children exceeding the standard – Working at Greater Depth	Children Working Towards the Expected Standard
SATs Results			
Reading	66%	13%	34%
Writing	66%	3%	34%
Maths	59%	3%	41%

Jo Stawman, Staff Governor

Deputy Head

Early Years and K.S.1

The outside provision for the reception class has been improved significantly this school year making a highly effective environment for the youngest children to enjoy and enhance their learning opportunities.

Money has been spent to ensure the playground is now safe and re-designed by a specialised company. A team of staff led by the Reception teacher have now established an enhanced writing area with a choice of writing materials, a 'word wall' and phonics to support learning. An art/craft area with easels and a large variety of materials and tools for the children to choose now stimulates creativity. A music area with instruments as well as pots, pans bells and spoons for children to experiment and a microphone for them to show off their musical skills. The children now have a large construction area with tyres, wooden posts, crates etc. to create their own buildings and installations. The water and sand area has been improved as well as an investigation table allowing children to observe natural collections of stones, shells and bugs. A maths area where children can measure and compare by using balancing buckets as well as rulers and tape measures.

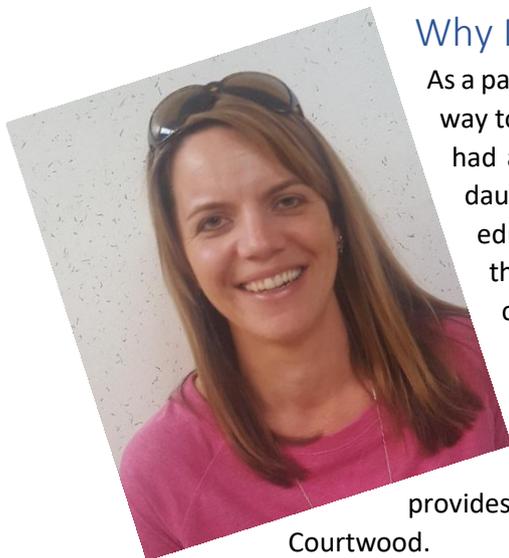


The inside classroom has also been adapted to ensure the complex needs of an increasing number of children are fully met. A nurture provision for young children has been approved and the school is looking forward to the building being extended in September and this will include a much needed medical room too.

Staff in Years 1 and 2 have been working hard to keep the high and increased standards required, especially in reading, by having new guided reading sheets. All teachers and teaching assistants have on going high quality training in supporting children in these essential basic skills and making sure standards in Courtwood continue to be excellent.

Karen Callaghan, Co-opted Governor

Lead Governor for Early Years and Key Stage 1



Why I recently became a Governor at Courtwood School.

As a parent with a child at Courtwood, I wanted to see what I could contribute in some way to the school. The opportunity came up to be a parent governor and I felt that I had a great deal to offer with regard to this role. As well as being a parent, my daughter is currently in her second year at Courtwood, I have been involved in education myself for over twenty years as a primary school teacher. I feel strongly that parents should be given a voice in matters relating to the education of their children. However, to do this, you must put yourself forward and get involved. Like every parent, I want to provide the best start for my child and the education they receive helps build this foundation and needs to be done in partnership with home and school. Seeing things from the viewpoint of the parents and being able to ask questions of the school as a parent governor provides me with a clearer insight into how things work within the community of Courtwood.

I have been born and raised in Croydon and feel quite passionate about the area especially when it is so often regarded disparagingly in the press. Courtwood school is a Croydon school but the ethos, the inclusive nature and the environment that it provides for all children to learn is what attracted me as a prospective parent. These same points made me want to become involved as a parent governor. I want to see first-hand exactly how the school includes all children, how it caters for all needs. In this role it will help me to understand how the school provides for all the children in its care and hold it accountable for what the school says it will provide for all of those in its care. I want to be part of the school and work with it to make an impact on children in it, to make sure they are receiving the best possible education in what is a difficult time for those that are expected to provide it under tight budget constraints, constant changes in legislation, rules and regulations.

Jessica Fuller, Parent Governor

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

Courtwood is a school with a higher than average number of pupils with additional learning needs and disabilities, and an Enhanced Learning Provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder which opened in 2014 (named 'The Treehouse' as voted for by pupils of the school). This has resulted in a particularly strong ethos of inclusion, equality and consideration of those who need additional help on their learning journey, which can be seen throughout the school in staff, the leadership team, parents, and most importantly in the pupils themselves.



Governors review pupils progress against targets each term, and we spend time as part of that to ensure that the interventions for those with SEND are working as intended. We also monitor the activities in the school development plan at each meeting, which includes an objective to

‘continue to enhance the provision within the school that is offered to pupils with mental health and emotional needs’. There have been a number of notable successes this year, which include:

- A successful application led by Debbie Gifford, SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), to achieve the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM)
- Continued popularity and success of the Sunshine and Friendship Nurture groups, offering additional support to all pupils as and when required
- Oversubscription to the Treehouse, recognising the outstanding opportunities given to pupils in this setting
- Changes and improvements made with the reception year classroom, to accommodate the specific needs of a number of pupils in that year group.
- A successful application made to the London Borough of Croydon to fund an improved Nurture Room provision, construction of which will start over the Summer, 2017

Rob Mair, Parent Governor

Lead Governor for SEND

Finance

The financial year for all schools runs from 1st April to 31st March, which means it straddles two school years. The budget for each year is set by the Headteacher in conjunction with a budget advisor and with the support and agreement of the governing body. The governing body then monitors expenditure against the budget, agreeing any significant changes. You may be aware that this year has been particularly tough for school funding, but you may not be aware that it is the last in a long line of ‘hard’ years, where funding has fallen short of expenditure. As a result we have relied on a carried forward surplus from when funding was more generous. This surplus was finally used up when setting the budget this year.



Courtwood has always sought funding from all available sources, and made sure that whatever we were entitled to was obtained. Similarly, we have always looked for best value in our spending choices, and related all spending back to the needs of the children. Unfortunately, we are not in control of the levies imposed by central government, such as the Apprenticeship Levy, or amounts demanded by the Local Authority for pension deficits. These are significant amounts that are not adequately covered by the funding formula.

2017/2018 is tight, 2018/2019 will be tighter still.

Kirsten Kendall, Parent Governor

Chair of Resources Committee

Governance at Courtwood



Having been a Governor at Courtwood School for over ten years, I have seen the school evolve and change to meet the requirements of the pupils over this period of constant change. As part of the Courtwood governing body, I have performed a number of roles including preparation of policies, membership of committees, subject reviews, staff performance management along with supporting and challenging the school leadership team.

Over my tenure as a governor, it has been very rewarding to see Courtwood develop the Tree House and also really differentiate itself from other schools in the area as a Forest School. We perform our governor role voluntarily and we are always concerned to make sure that everything we do as a team has a positive impact on outcomes for children.

I live locally in Selsdon and have always found Courtwood School to be a very friendly and welcoming school that allows all of the pupils to be the best they can be. I look forward to helping Courtwood continue to meet the challenges of the constantly changing educational landscape.

Craig Rothery – Co-opted Governor

Acadmission



Courtwood Primary School is a One Form Entry, Croydon Council Maintained School, like most other schools around the country we have been considering if we should be working in a closer working relationship with other schools. This would be either in a Federation / Cooperative Model or as part of a Multi Academy Trust. During our investigations to date we have researched / spoken with various other schools and existing trusts.

There are lots of good reasons for small schools to work in collaboration:

- Shared Expertise to enhance pupil development
- Resource and Knowledge Sharing
- Reduced Overall Administration

The Governors are looking to ensure that Courtwood will continue to provide good education to our current and future pupils. As Kirsten said earlier school budgets are getting more and more difficult to manage while still delivering a good quality education. The Governors vision is to ensure that if we make a change to Courtwood it is for the benefit of our pupils, families and staff.

Al Roseweir – Co-opted Governor

Chair of Governors

Preparing for September 2017

All the Governors wish you a very happy holiday break, to spend time with your family. Today (21st July) we have spent a really great day with the school staff looking at what we set out to achieve over the last year and looking forward to the next school year starting in September.

We have looked at the comments received from the children and looking how the school can quickly resolve some of the things that the pupils have said would improve the school. It was great to see how the children really value the staff and friends in the school and feel safe at Courtwood.

We look forward to continuing to educate Courtwood's Pupils over the next year and seeing them back on 6th September 2017.