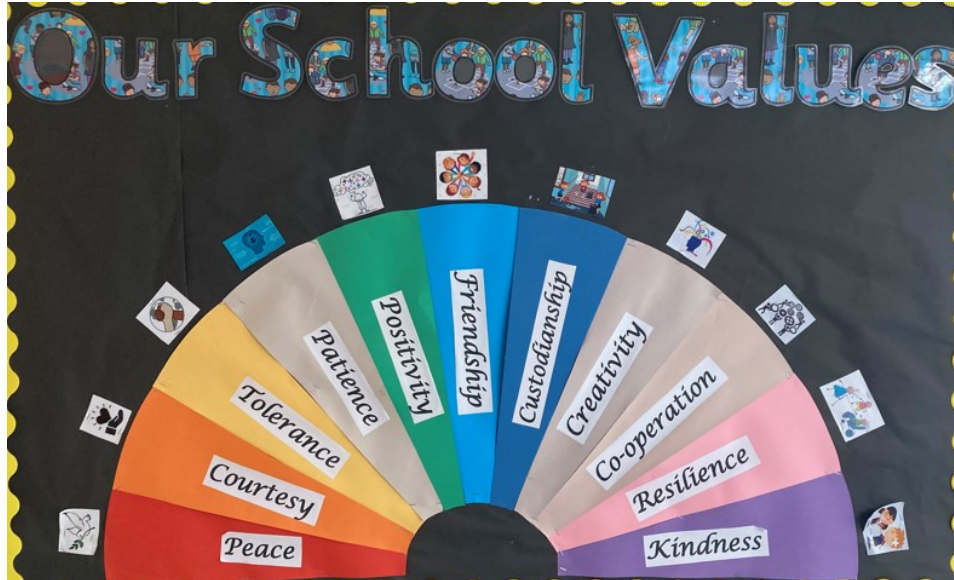




Newsletter from the Governing Board at HCJS, November 2023



Dear parents and carers,

In the 22-23 Parent Survey, nearly 87% of respondents agreed that 'Governors play an effective role in supporting the school'. That means just over 13% did not.

Thank you to those of you who answered the survey questions. We do read these and take note and respond where we can. We are grateful for your input. We also run surveys with staff every year. Governors talk to staff and pupils when we visit school informally and also in more focused Pupil Voice sessions to help us build a rounded picture of life at HCJS.

As a Board, we will be updating you more regularly on aspects of Governance. This first newsletter is a little lengthy so that I can provide some wider context as to how the Governing Board operates.

The Parent Survey results will be uploaded to the school website later this month.

What is the purpose of the Governing Board?

The Board sets the strategic direction and vision for the school and works closely to support the Headteacher and staff in their day-to-day operational duties in running the school.

Governors are often referred to as 'critical friends' – their job is to have oversight of school management and leadership, accountability for school finances, and to ensure that the school meets its statutory requirements, implements its policies, and perform its duty regarding the education and safeguarding of your children. Governors are unpaid; a term (renewable) is 4 years. Find out more here: <https://nationalcollege.com/news/roles-and-responsibilities-of-a-school-governor-or-trustee>

Who is on the Board?

Details here: https://www.haddenhamjun.co.uk/web/our_governing_board/11107

We have two parent Governors as well as staff and community governors.

How can I meet a member of the Governing Board?

Governors attend Open Evenings, talks to parents and PTA events. For example, there will be a governor at the PHSE talk that Mr Leach and Miss McMahon will be giving on Monday 27 Nov 6-7 pm and governors at the Christmas Fayre on 1st December.

Please come and talk to us if you see us!

We can be contacted via the School Office or by email to: govs@haddenhamjun.co.uk

What do Governors do?

Governors are assigned **specific roles and responsibilities** to support key aspects of the educational and pastoral life of the school. For example, we have a link governor for the following: literacy, mathematics, science & IT, safeguarding, Pupil Premium & SEN, amongst others. Full details are on the website. The relevant governor liaises with and supports the teaching staff through discussions of the curriculum, learning walks, and other school visits. Governors report back to the various committees and advise on areas that might need additional support or resources, for example.

Governor Visits to school this term have so far included those by the Art & Music link Governor, Science & IT Governor, SEN & Pupil Premium Governor, Safeguarding Governor, Maths link Governor, Health & Safety Governor . . .

In addition to the Full Governing Board **meetings** (4 a year), we have three **committees** which each meet once a term as minimum and additionally as required, for example when setting the school budget each year.

Governors are on **recruitment** panels for new staff, carry out the Headteacher's **Performance Management** review, take **training** courses and attend conferences as well as keep up to date with the numerous (and regularly updated) policy **documents** produced by Bucks Education Department and the Department of Education.

- **The Finance, Premises and Health & Safety Committee** prepares the annual financial plan and regularly reviews the condition of the school buildings.
- **The Learning & Teaching Committee** advises on all matters relating to the curriculum, working with staff to review and revise teaching policies. It tracks the school performance: monitoring achievements against targets that have been set.
- **The Pay & Personnel Committee** considers the staffing of the school and agrees any pay related changes.

Details as to what the Learning & Teaching Committee talked about when they met in October, on the next page.

Spotlight on the Learning & Teaching Committee

Joel Cliffe, Chair of this committee writes:

The L&T Committee focuses on the quality of education provided to pupils by the school. Subject matter governors share their thoughts on the visits they've made into school to see how teachers bring the curriculum to life and how we as governors can continue to support the schools efforts to deliver a rich and varied programme of learning to all of its pupils.

Each term we meet and hear from our senior leaders about how pupils are progressing and about all the exciting ways their teachers try to bring topics to life; from digging up fossils in the woodland area to learn about archaeology to speaking via live video links to scientists who've been working at the Antarctica research base to learn about geography and conservation.

This term we heard from Mrs Conyers about how geography and history are taught at school and all the initiatives in place to help the children think more like geographers / historians. We also talked about how teachers assess the progress of children (which feeds into the end-of-year reports that are shared with you as parents) and considered the data on pupil progress across maths and literacy. We get to see first-hand all the work that goes into providing every child at HCJS with the best possible education while providing challenge and support to ensure the excellent work being done by all at the school continues.

Thank you for your continued support for the staff and pupils at HCJS.

With all good wishes,

Alysoun Glasspool

Alysoun Glasspool, Co-Chair HCJS Governing Board