



Mile Oak Primary School

Graham Avenue, Portslade, Brighton. BN41 2WN

Telephone 01273 077114

Email: office@mileoak.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Update from Mile Oak Primary School Governors, January 2025

The Mile Oak Governing Body for Mile Oak Primary School is responsible for the overall direction and performance of the school. We are a group of volunteers, including school staff, parents and other members of the community who give our time to support the education of children in our community.

We meet in two committees, each supporting one aspect of the school's work – one dealing with finance and the business side of the school, and one which supports teaching and learning. We meet as a whole 'Full Governing Body' at least termly to discuss issues arising in the school and make decisions to support the school's leadership team.

We would like to make sure that parents and other members of the community feel that they are in touch with what is happening at a governance level in the school, and have undertaken to write a brief update for publication after each Governing Body meeting, to let you know about the issues that we have been considering.

The autumn term has been a challenging one for the school community. We have been working with the local authority, which funds primary school education, to ensure that the school remains within its budget. As you will be aware, the local authority finances are in a very difficult state with more demands on its finances than it can manage. All schools – both locally and nationally, have been faced with a rise in costs (including staff pay, and the costs of supporting children with particular needs, including special educational needs), without an accompanying increase in government funding. Mile Oak has therefore been in the position of needing to reduce costs in some key areas, while maintaining its commitment to providing excellent teaching and learning for our children. The governors have been closely involved in monitoring the school's income and expenditure, as well as in lobbying for the funding needed.

Governors also monitor standards in teaching and learning, reviewing pupil progress at all stages. The autumn term starts by looking in detail at the results of various tests and assessments during the last school year including SATs. We were delighted to see the continuing improved results for all our children, who are making excellent progress with the support of the whole school staff. We also recognise the importance of the support they receive at home from parents and family members,

Towards the end of the autumn term governors received the results of surveys of parents and of staff, with more responses to both than ever. It is heartening to see that the majority of parents are very satisfied with the school and feel their children are happy, safe and doing well. There were a number of positive comments, but it is also important for us to hear any concerns.



There are concerns from some parents about support for children with special needs. There were also comments about the impact of the behaviour of a few children. Governors are very aware of these issues which have been the subject of considerable discussion with Mr Lording and the Senior Leadership team. Action has been taken with several support plans now in place. There is also a new project starting in this term – the Sapling project - which will help some high needs children. However, the lack of support services for special needs is a national concern and we feel this acutely locally. We will continue to lobby for more support for Mile Oak students.

As a governing board we are keen to ensure that we listen to the views of our community, and we are always pleased to hear from you – please address any comments to the Clerk at Mile Oak School.

Rosalind Turner
Chair of the Mile Oak Full Governing Body

