



HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT 2022-23

Membership

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members to the Community Council this year:

- Mr Reginald Akingbade - Community Group;
- Ms Jasminder Kaur - Parent; and
- Mr Sunny Karwal - Parent

We are also excited to welcome our first student representatives to the Community Council. The following students were elected as representatives from each of the school houses:

- Green house: Elodie & Abiraj
- Red house: Ria & Heenal
- Yellow house: Raynav & Ravneet

Our new student members went through a rigorous selection process prior to appointment. They were shortlisted from a large number of applications to stand in a student ballot for election by their peers. They gave fantastic speeches outlining why they were the best pupils for the role and were subsequently elected by our key stage 2 pupils. We look forward to working with them throughout the next academic year and hope that their input will give us a strong understanding of what it means to be a Hillingdon Primary pupil.

We also said goodbye to two parent members of the Community Council this year: Mr Kassam and Mrs Han. Both had served close to 4 years as members of the previous Local Governing Body and new Community Council, and we thank them for their contributions and support during this time.

Meetings and Focus

Over the past academic year we have held four formal meetings which included visits into school to develop our understanding of various aspects of school life.

Our first meeting, in November 2022, provided members with an opportunity to orientate themselves for the year ahead. We looked at the School Improvement Priorities for the year and agreed areas of focus for future school visits linked to these areas. We discussed and agreed changes to the meeting minutes going forward to ensure that these would be more accessible to parents and the wider community. Actions were agreed that helped us to fill membership vacancies and enhance members' skills through training.

Members met for a second time in January 2023. The meeting began with a visit to Early Years that provided a fantastic opportunity to see in practice the information that was shared via the School Improvement Plan reports: particularly in relation to improvements in the Early Years' environment and changes to the Early Years Framework which combined to promote a language rich environment for our pupils. It was an amazing experience to hear about the planning and preparation that went into ensuring children were receiving an excellent education: we were impressed by the dedication, passion and expertise of staff. Members were also provided with a thorough and detailed update on pupil attendance. The report showcased the work that goes into supporting and encouraging parents and carers to ensure their children attend school regularly to enable them to benefit from the school's broad and balanced curriculum.

The third meeting of the Community Council was held in March 2023. The main focus of the meeting was an evaluation of the wider curriculum, particularly the foundation subjects. Members visited four lessons in action: PE, Computing, Music, and Art and Design. The visits enabled us to delve into the three main areas of focus of the Community Council: ethos, curriculum and wellbeing. Pupils came across as safe, happy, engaged and confident during the visits. They warmly welcomed us into their classrooms and were keen to share what they were learning with their visitors. Teachers and specialist subject leaders also provided information to develop members' understanding of cross curricular links and how these were used to reinforce pupils' learning. A meeting with the Pastoral Care Manager also highlighted how significant pastoral care was to support the closing of gaps in attendance and achievement.

Our final meeting in July 2023 focused on the implementation of the Reading and Writing Curriculum across the school, including how the CUSP curriculum was being used to enhance learning. Members visited classrooms to observe guided reading and writing lessons in action, and were particularly pleased to see further evidence of the cross curricular links discussed at the meeting in March. We were also joined by our new student representatives for the first time. It was a pleasure to watch them engaging with their peers and younger pupils during the class visits, asking questions about the aspects of reading and writing that they liked the most so that they could feed this back when we returned to the meeting room. The visit generated a discussion about the benefits of consistency versus flexibility in both delivery of the curriculum and communication between adults and children in class: this is something that we will be exploring further in the new academic year as we learn more about an exciting new Trust-wide Oracy project. Members also had another opportunity to discuss pupil attendance, in particular the negative impact that absence can have on pupils' achievement, wellbeing and personal development. The Community Council fully supports staff commitment to improving pupil attendance and suggestions were made to enhance the information published on the school website to further support this work.

Looking Forward

At the end of every Community Council meeting, we regularly evaluate what we have learnt from the meeting and our impact. During the past year, this evaluation has resulted in the structure of the meetings evolving as Members agreed that spending time visiting classrooms and engaging with pupils and staff is the most effective way to learn more about our areas of focus. We plan to continue this format in the new school year, and hope that contributions from our new student representatives will enhance our meetings and impact further.

As you all will be aware, Mrs Breslin will be leaving Hillingdon Primary School at the end of December and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for the incredibly positive impact



that she has had on the school's culture, ethos and success during her 20 year headship. We are all very sad to see Mrs Breslin leave, however wish her well in her future endeavours. The Community Council was thrilled with the appointment of two of our excellent senior leaders, Ms Kelly and Ms Saidiya, to the positions of Co-Principals. We look forward to continuing our strong working relationship with them in January 2024.

Lastly, we currently have one vacancy for a member to join us from the local community: if you are a member of our community and think that you know someone who may be well suited to support us, then please contact Louise Daniel, Governance and Policy Officer, at clerk@hillingdonprimaryschool.org.uk.

Wishing you a wonderful summer holiday.

Hillingdon Primary School Community Council