



EWPS Governing Body Annual Newsletter 2022

How is Ellen Wilkinson Primary doing and what are our next steps?



HELLO

This special edition newsletter from the Governing Body has been put together to let you know how the School is doing; based on what you have told us, from school visits and meetings. It is also an opportunity to extend our thanks to all parents, carers, staff and pupils for your continued commitment and support. Everyone plays an important role in ensuring that we all learn and succeed together.



The vision of Ellen Wilkinson School is ***“Learning to Grow and Succeed Together”***. Your School Governors work closely with Ms Ferguson and her staff to ensure that this vision underpins all that we do.



We presently have eleven governors representing parents, members of staff and members of our local community. We meet together with

Ms Ferguson at least five times each year. We also have subcommittees focusing on Curriculum and Standards and on School Finances. At our meetings we receive reports about the main School and about Little Ellies. We also review School policies and the overall strategic development of the School. A brief summary of each meeting is included in the School newsletter.

School visits

Each governor has a specific linked responsibility - for example: safeguarding, inclusion or a particular curriculum area. We each visit the School at least twice a year to meet with staff and pupils and discuss our link area. In addition, we spend a half day in School together to look in detail at the day to day experience of pupils. Last summer we met with the Junior Governing Body to find out more about their role and they also had lots of questions for us too. We had an excellent lunch with the pupils, and then School Ambassadors took us on tours of the School, visiting the playground, classrooms and giving their views on all aspects of the pupils' experience. All the children we met were very proud of their school and keen to share their experiences with us. During our visits, we were very impressed, as always, by the children's work, behaviour and enthusiasm for learning.



Pupil Attainment

Last summer saw the first KS2 SATs results since 2019. We were very pleased to see that our results were at or above National figures in almost all areas. This reflects the efforts made by pupils and staff over the past year to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. We have set ourselves challenging targets for next year to ensure all children continue to achieve their best.



The School Budget

The Finance Committee meets regularly to plan and agree the overall budget and monitor finances over the year. Like all schools across the country, we have had to look carefully at how we manage the budget with increasing costs and pressure on finances. The priority remains to focus spending on providing the best possible learning experience for all pupils. This year the Local Authority has

also paid for extensive repairs to the drains and repairs to the roof are due to start later this year.

Marie Christie - Chair of Governors

PARENT SURVEY OUTCOMES (July 2022 - 168 responses)

Question	% agree or strongly agree	<u>Governing Body Statement</u>
My child feels safe at this school.	100.0%	Thank you to everyone for completing our annual survey, having such a large response rate helps know about how the school is doing now and the focus for our future priorities.
My child is making good progress at this school.	100.0%	
This school meets my child's particular needs.	100.0%	
This school ensures my child is well looked after.	100.0%	

My child is taught well at this school.	100.0%
This school helps my child develop skills in communication, reading, writing & mathematics.	100.0%
Behaviour in the school is good which ensures a happy and safe learning environment.	100.0%
My child enjoys playtimes.	99.4%
This school deals with any cases of bullying effectively. (Bullying includes persistent name-calling, cyber, racist and homophobic bullying).	96.2%
My child benefits from extra curricular clubs.	96.4%
This school helps me to support my child's learning.	100.0%
This school listens to my concerns.	98.8%
This school keeps me well informed.	97.6%
The Leadership Team is approachable.	100.0%
The Governing Body is effective.	99.3%
Overall I am happy with this school.	100%

It is wonderful to see such high positive responses across all areas and overall how happy families are with the school and reflects the impact of work identified from last year's survey including communication and reviewing our anti-bullying procedures.

Thank you to all staff for their hard work, and to parents for their support.



This year we also asked opinions about school lunches and 91.1% of responses were positive. Going forward our Junior Governors will continue to work with the catering company we use to improve this for more children.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

In 2021-22 we wanted to: continue closing Covid learning gaps and deliver our full curriculum. School focus continued to be on reading, supporting writing and developing maths mastery

Governing Body Statement: Our 2022 pupil outcomes showed the strong recovery curve which was a result of the measures that have been put into place to address this. This recovery was particularly marked in maths, grammar, punctuation and spelling and phonics. Some of our cohorts have been definitely more affected than others, so support for these groups will continue into this year. Children also benefited from having their full broad and balanced curriculum where opportunities to extend their learning through visits and workshops have been prioritised (see website and newsletters for details of these).

Next Steps In 2022 -23 we want to: return our pupil outcomes to pre-pandemic levels and provide additional support for cohorts most affected. We are also developing our music curriculum.



"Overall we are satisfied with the school's holistic teaching (ie academic, situational & cultural awareness etc.) We see excellent development in our child who always has positive feedback about her day at school."



"Excellent teachers and staff. They have great role in my son's SATs results. Thank you."



Did you know that ...?
EWPS is one of the few primary school Confucius Classrooms in the country because of the quality of our Mandarin provision. Year 5 also linked with a school in China.



Did you know that ...?
Children in both year 5 & 6 have the opportunity for residential visits each year where they do a range of activities including canoeing and archery.



BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES

In 2021-22 we wanted to: work with the Junior Governing Body so that children had positive lunchtimes now that they were fully back in the playground together and relaunch our previous work on anti-bullying as their social circles had increased. We also wanted to support families in ensuring their children attended regularly.

Governing Body Statement: Our Junior Governing Body worked very hard with pupils and staff to create positive lunchtime experiences for everyone, including developing the way the playground space was used and the equipment that was available. They did a fantastic job particularly as we have less space for most of the year due to the portable toilet blocks we had to have! We also relaunched our anti-bullying charter, held additional anti-bullying lessons and conducted refresher training for staff. Thank you to the parent focus group who inputted in this work and we are pleased to see the positive impact of all of this work in both parent and child surveys. We were also pleased to see that our attendance last year was above national even with isolations etc.

Next Steps In 2022 -23 we want to: continue to support families to attend 'every day and on time'. We are reviewing our behaviour policy to embed our work on Equity and Diversity in all our policies and procedures and further work to promote positive lunchtimes. We are also looking to launch our Equity in Diversity work with parents.

"I'm very happy because my children are happy in this school, the learning is very good."

"Very happy with the teaching and engagement with parents from all the teaching staff."

Did you know that ...?
Our Eco-Guardians, worked very hard to improve our impact on our environment and as a result we were given the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award!

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2021-22 we wanted to: raise awareness and understanding of positive mental health and wellbeing so that our children had strategies for life. We also wanted to develop the cultural reflectiveness within our curriculum to ensure we celebrate and share the impact of individuals from all backgrounds and ensure we tackle bias and racism more proactively as a community.

Governing Body Statement: Wellbeing Wednesdays were introduced and provide a time each week for children to discuss a range of issues and how to keep themselves mentally as well as physically healthy, pupil surveys measure the impact of these. Our Equity in Diversity team have completed a curriculum and resource review to ensure what we teach is more representative of the community we serve. Our British Values units were rewritten and now include specific lessons about racism and intolerance and how we need to tackle this. Staff and governors have both taken part in training. Our Eco-Guardians were selected and they have worked on units about sustainability within the curriculum as well as taking part in action such as community litter picks.

Next Steps In 2022 -23 we want to: embed Wellbeing Wednesdays and also introduce the zones of regulation to support this. We will continue our work on refining our healthy schools approach particularly in relation to mental health and also healthy eating.

Did you know that ...?
In 2021-22 EWPS achieved Healthy School status due to the impact of our work on promoting physically and mentally healthy lifestyles with our children.

Did you know that ...?
Artwork from across the school formed part of the Newham Arts Show and that our children's work was used for all the publicity.

"Happy that she eats healthy meals at school the way she does at home."

"About food for lunch time, sometimes is short of hot food,"

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

In 2021-22 we wanted to: continue closing Covid learning gaps and deliver our full curriculum. Focus continued on working with staff in relation to workload to find new ways of working smarter rather than harder! We also wanted to look at how we could become a healthier school (physically and mentally!)

Governing Body Statement: Delivering our full curriculum and addressing gaps in learning caused by the pandemic were the main focus of our work last year and we were pleased to see the strong improvement curve with the end of year results, although there is still much to be done to fully return us to pre-pandemic levels. The Curriculum Leaders all refined their subject visions and improvement plans for the next 3 years as we are committed to children receiving a broad and balanced curriculum. Our Governors held visits throughout the year to see if the plans we had made were being put into practice and what the impact of this was. This also gave them the opportunity to speak to children and pupils. Our Junior Governing Body were very proactive last year and led development in the playground as well as organising events such as the Jubilee party with another school. Our Equity in Diversity Leads worked tirelessly to improve the way we represent our community in the curriculum and ensure training for staff took place. Our Mental Health Leads continued to develop our work with promoting healthy lifestyles with both children and staff.

Next Steps In 2022 -23 we want to: return our pupil outcomes to pre-pandemic levels and provide additional support for cohorts most affected. We will also look at how we can refine our curriculum to make sure children have an exciting experience, and remember more!



EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS)

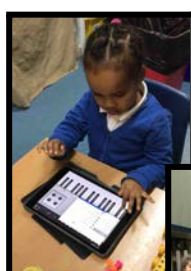
In 2021-22 we wanted to: focus on personal, social and emotional development of children due to the limited social interaction during the pandemic. Last year also saw a step towards implementing a forest schools approach into our EYFS outdoor provision with our now qualified Leader for Forest Schools. This included upskilling children and allowing them to take risks in their play.

Governing Body Statement: Our youngest children were most impacted during the pandemic and therefore it was imperative that we gave the best support with their language and communication and their personal, social and emotional development to support social interaction. Support with phonics, reading and maths were key areas and will continue to be so going forward as we want all children to move on from the EYFS with good basic skills in these areas. Another key focus remains that we extend the cultural capital children have and build on them so that we widen their lived experiences and give them the best possible start to understanding concepts and ideas.



Next Steps In 2022 -23 we want to: Continue to develop language and communication to positively impact on literacy outcomes.

We intend to continue to have a strong focus on Physical, Social & Emotional Development (PSED) and Communication & Language to help support children with the effects of limited interaction and social development over the last two years and strengthen their spoken language within a rich language environment and through interventions.



Did you know that ...?
As part of Up and Out week, we have engaged with services in our local community and looked at future aspirations.

"I am very happy with this school. The staff at EW are excellent. Great role models for all our children."