



## Camp School Governors Newsletter 2018/19

Welcome to our Camp School Governors newsletter for 2018/19. This is to update you on what we've been doing this year, and say a bit about the school's finances. We hope you find the information useful, and would welcome any feedback.



### The role of the Governors

The Governing Body [pictured] is made up of staff, parents and other members of our local community. We provide strategic leadership for the school and help ensure every child gets the best possible education. In the eyes of the law, the purpose of governing bodies is to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement.

### Governing Body changes

At the start of the school year Tim Powell stepped down as Chair after holding the post for three years. During that time, he oversaw the appointment of Sharon Barton as Head, and participated in the school's Ofsted inspection in February 2018 that led to a successful outcome. We thank Tim for this service in the role. Gavin Bostock took over as Chair with Judy Robinson continuing as Vice Chair. We also thank Sharon Freeman, who stepped down as Governor in November, being replaced by Shabana Farooq following an election.



## Recent activity

Our primary role as Governors is to support the school whilst holding it to account for its performance. This includes reviewing a range of data, to give assurance that children are learning and progressing well. The data never includes any information about individual children. Governors have a particular responsibility to challenge and support the school in its use of 'Pupil Premium' funding, aiming to ensure that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds can perform well and 'aspire to greatness'. Data is used to assess the outcomes achieved by Pupil Premium children with analysis of any key trends and issues; however Governors recognize that the support provided is very much tailored to individual needs, consistent with the ethos of the school.

The OFSTED inspection last year highlighted that the school's leaders in Foundation subjects (i.e. all subjects outside English, Maths and Science) should have a 'firm understanding of the strengths and areas for development within their subjects'. Each Governor has been assigned to a subject, to support the relevant subject leader as they seek to achieve this aim. This term saw Governors carry out visits to lessons in their relevant subject and receive feedback from pupils.

Last summer the school introduced new processes to ensure compliance with GDPR regulations regarding personal data. Governors worked to support the school to ensure staff has necessary training and awareness, and Huong Hauduc volunteered to become the school's Data Protection Officer.

Governors have worked with the school on the updating and revising of the school's behavior policy to reflect the adoption of the therapeutic behavior approach referred to as STEPS. The approach, which focuses on techniques aimed at developing internal discipline in children, was briefed to parents at an information session. The new approach is settling in well at the school but has necessarily involved a significant amount of leadership and staff time to fully implement.

Governors attended the recent school INSET School Development Plan day, and will continue to be involved as the Plan is finalised for the year ahead. They also attend the termly visits from the school's Improvement Partner, a head teacher from another school who is employed through Herts for Learning to provide external support and challenge to Camp. The most recent visit focused on approaches to improving attendance, an emerging priority for the school.

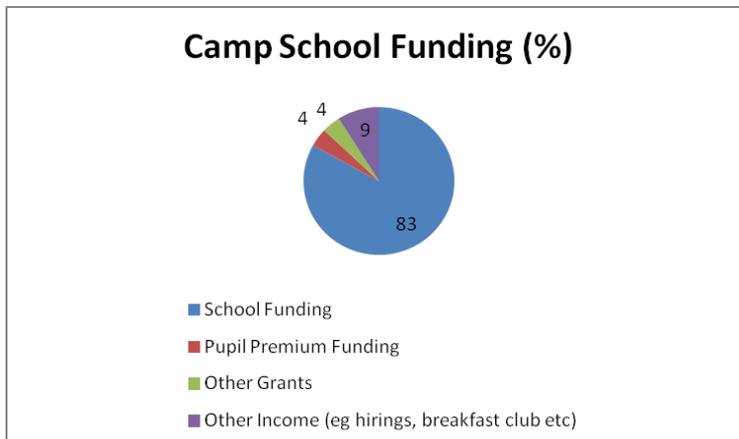
Road safety remains a regular issue covered at Governor meetings. We are delighted that, after years of campaigning, we will finally see the introduction of a new 20mph zone throughout the Camp area this August. We are continuing to press for improvements to the pedestrian crossing facilities on Camp Road.

## Finances

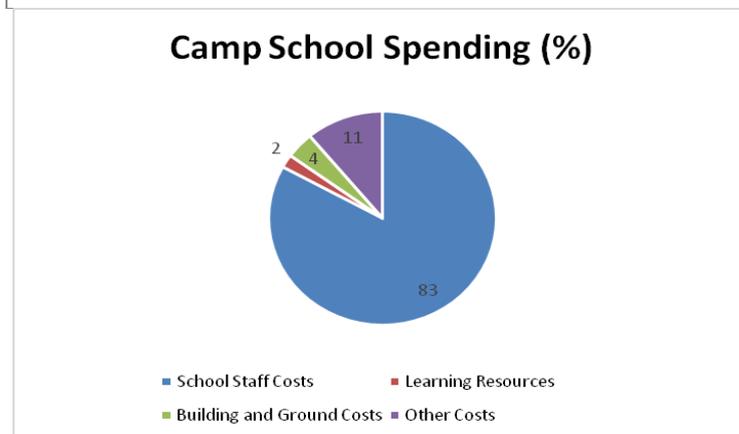
The school budget is a major area of focus for the Governing Body, and is discussed with them in detail when set, with further updates during the year.



The first graph shows from where the school receives its income. Camp receives around 90% from Hertfordshire County Council, out of education funding it receives from the Government.



The second graph shows how the school spends its money with the majority of it being spent on staff. At Camp, the children benefit from a good pupil-teacher ratio of 16:1 – which is higher than most schools similar to ours.



Due to careful management over the school year, Camp has once again ended the financial year in a relatively strong financial position. Some of the money saved this year was due to certain school projects being delayed due to the replacement of the school roof going ahead. This project was funded separately by the Government but prevented us from being able to undertake other work at the same time, for example replacing the path by nursery and reception. That project will happen next year, and contributes to a more challenging situation in regards to next year's budget.

With the national picture leading to money being tight for all schools, we continue to work to carefully manage the budget and to look for other ways to raise and save money.

We're thankful to all those who support the school by raising money through PA events and initiatives. This has funded certain projects that might otherwise have had to be covered by the school budget.

If people are interested in long term hirings for clubs etc please get in touch with the school office.

### Summary

As Governors we voluntarily commit time and effort to our work but enjoy being involved with a school that aims for the very best for its pupils within a supportive environment. The leadership and staff face various pressures as they seek to provide a learning and nurturing environment for all Camp's pupils, but the school can be proud of its many successes – including the shiny new library! We would like to thank the children, staff, parents/carers, and all those involved in making Camp School special!