



BERRYMEDE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Governing Body End of Year Report 2020/21

A Year in Review

Dear Pupils and Parents,

The last academic year has truly demonstrated the passion of Berrymede's staff, the resilience and positive attitude of our pupils and the school community's commitment to ensuring all our pupils receive the educational and personal support they need to succeed. The Governing Body are incredibly proud of all that has been achieved, and in the following pages we have shared highlights from the past year, along with further information about the role and work of governors.

There has been lots of change over the past year, and governors have been amazed to see the speed with which school has adapted in response to Covid. There have been extra safety measures, a period of lessons online via MS Teams, and lots of learning to be done in our second year of Covid disruption. Pupils have completed amazing work this year, including posters on mental health awareness – a priority topic that we have focussed on in school.



There has also been change in the Governing Body itself over the past year. We have welcomed four new governors: Adriana Lipka, Adeel Khan, Mary Collier, and our staff governor Ms Cory. We are already benefitting from their knowledge and experience, and look forward to continuing to work with them. We've also said a fond farewell to Councillor Mik Sabiers who has stepped down after a decade of service as our Local Authority governor, for which we thank him and wish him well for the future. This year has also seen the sad passing of Virginia Gorna, one of Berrymede's longest serving governors, who showed true dedication to Berrymede over so many years.



Governors are grateful to all staff for their dedication to Berrymede, and wish the following staff who are moving on all the very best for the future: Edel Young, Dorota Lukawska, Shirin Ahmed, Hamza Khan, Kamal Jaledi, Anne Pereira, Farah Franka, and Zamzam Ahmed.

In particular, we would like to say a special thank you to Mr Steven Cotton who moves on to his next challenge at a new school from September – he has demonstrated real commitment to going the extra mile for our pupils and his passion for PE has transformed our school's approach to sport, with many awards to show for it.

The next academic year will soon be upon us. Over recent months, governors have been working with the infants school to explore how we can work more closely with them in the future, and we will continue this exploration in the next year. We wish our Year 6 pupils every success as they move on to their next schools and look forward to welcoming the rest of our pupils back in September. Have a wonderful summer.

James Crutchley, Chair of Governors at Berrymede Junior School



Celebrating Our Successes and Achievements in 2020/21

The stars of the Berrymede family continued to shine brightly over the past year, regardless of the challenges of Covid!

Take a look below at a snapshot of the incredible contributions of our pupils and staff. We're excited to see what 2021/22 has in store.



5H success at the Featherstone Boccia Championships



Year 4 Latin club on a visit to St Albans Cathedral



Demonstrating skills in competitive netball matches



Impressive scores in the Primary Maths Challenge!



Fantastic cycling with the Cycle Coach for National Fitness Day



Christmas dinner at Berrymede this year



Amazing costumes for World Book Day!



The secret staff dance, with the Best Teacher Dance Award to Mrs Mangat



Well done to pupils who took their Grade 1 speaking in public exam!



Gold for Berrymede in the Healthy Schools award



Excellent work from Mrs Khan's reading champions



Amazing abilities on show during the autumn term street dance takeover



Meet the Governors

Mr James Crutchley has been Chair of Governors since 2019. He is the Head of Financial Planning for a government department. He believes strongly that every child should have the opportunity to thrive and enjoys supporting the school. He is also the Governor responsible for Finance.



Ms Susan Loughe is the Vice Chair of Governors and enjoys working with a team of enthusiastic professionals, who are dedicated to providing high quality education in a very caring environment. She is an experienced HR professional for Amazon. She is the Governor responsible for PE, PSHE, Safeguarding, H&S, Child Protection & Equality.

Ms Sara Jukes has been a governor since her children attended Berrymede (they are now in their 20's). She enjoys being involved and helping the school to continue to support all pupils. Sara spent most of her working life in local government but before that ran a cocktail bar for a few years! She is the Governor responsible for Literacy, Reading, Wellbeing, SEN, Child Protection & Safeguarding.



Mr Adeel Khan is a Cambridge University scholar of Religion and History and a published author in education studies. He has taught in university and high schools in inner city London and written curriculum for Australian primary schools. Adeel is a keen sailor and a father of a toddler. At present, he advises charities on their social outreach.

Miss Adriana Lipka studied at Loughborough University and is currently working as a Maths teacher at Ada Lovelace High School whilst also completing her Masters in Education, Culture & Society. She enjoys reading, cycling and trying new recipes.



Ms Rachel Pepper has over 35 years of experience in the arts & cultural sector. She is the Director of ARTification (Acton based charity) managing the W3 gallery, working on creative projects with school, youth and community organisations, organising Acton Carnival and behind much of the public art in the borough. She is the Governor responsible for Art.

Ms Jiva Cory is the Staff Governor. Her goal in teaching is to foster a lifelong love of learning within young people. She strives to create an engaging environment, based on mutual respect and tolerance where all members are equally valued. As a teacher, her main goal is to motivate students to do their best and realise their full potential.



Ms Mary Collier is a commercial lawyer based in West London. She is passionate about youth development and empowerment and has worked with young people in the community over the past decade. Mary is the newest Governor, having joined in early 2021, and is looking forward to getting to know and working with the governors and school community.

Dr Tariq Suleman has been a parent Governor since 2018 where both his children thrived. He is committed to supporting and developing the vision of the school so that it continues to provide an enriched learning environment for all students, with learning opportunities and experiences within and beyond the school boundaries.





Governing Body Mission Statement

The Governing Body works in partnership with the school leadership and community to set the strategic direction for the school, creating a supportive environment in which pupils' creativity and passion for learning flourishes, setting high expectations for pupils' achievements, and recognising the value of high-quality teaching and the vital role of parents in pupils' development.

The Governing body visits school regularly to observe activities and lessons and meet to monitor progress on priority improvement areas. The Full Governing Body has met five times this year and the committees that focus on specific areas have met at least once each term. A Partnership Committee has also met four times between April and June.

	FGB	Resources	T&L	S&E
Mrs L Khan	Head	X	X	X
Mr J Crutchley	Chair	Vice	Chair	
Ms S Loughe	Vice	X		Chair
Ms S Jukes	X	Chair	Vice	Vice
Ms R Pepper	X			X
Ms J Cory	Staff		X	
Mr T Suleman	Parent		X	X
Mr A Khan	X		X	X
Miss A Lipka	X		X	
Ms M Collier	X	X		
Mrs N Patel	Deputy HT		X	X
Cllr M Sabiers	LA			

The three strategic functions of Berrymede Junior's Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Monitoring the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Safeguarding and Engagement Committee Summary from Ms S Loughe

The committee oversees the school's strategies, policies and practices for keeping children safe and well. It also coordinates the variety of ways in which we engage with parents and the local community.



This year, one of our key areas of work was responding to Covid. School remained open during lockdown, to provide schooling for the children of key workers. Children who were learning from home were given a lot of support by teachers to ensure their education did not suffer. The school had to manage the consequences of pupils and staff having to shield or isolate following contact with someone with Covid. The school responded really well to all of the challenges that came its way.

The well being of staff and pupils has been even more of a priority this year. We have also updated our safeguarding audit, and we support the action plans that have been drawn up following the parent and staff surveys.



Resources Committee Summary from Ms S Jukes

We look at how the school's budget is spent to make sure it has the best outcome for pupils. The school's staffing and upkeep of the site also come under our remit.



This year has been particularly challenging, as the pandemic has meant increased costs, for example extra cleaning and protective equipment. While we have been unable to make income by hiring out the premises, the school has once again successfully bid for funding including from Acton Gardens.

We have taken a particularly close look at staffing, with the budget being tighter than previously, and with the potential future with the infants in mind. We are grateful that the school's finances have been expertly managed over many years by the School Business Manager.

Teaching and Learning Committee Summary from Mr J Crutchley

The committee monitors the quality of teaching and the progress of pupils, to ensure that we deliver a high quality of education that meets our pupils' diverse needs.



This year we have been looking at ensuring our curriculum focussed on recovering the learning that has been impacted by Covid. We have been monitoring data on pupil progress, and ensuring we provide the support needed to our pupils with special educational needs – an area we have consistently focussed on.

In preparation for and during lockdown, we monitored the impact and effectiveness of remote learning, and greatly enjoyed seeing the brilliant work that pupils completed on both core subjects and special projects.

Partnership Committee

In March 2021, Governors of Berrymede infants and juniors agreed to work together to explore how the two schools could work together further in the future. The committee has reviewed the options for formal collaboration and made a recommendation to the infants and juniors governing bodies that, in principle, amalgamation makes the most educational and financial sense. The committee will continue work next year to consult with pupils, parents and the community.



We hope you have found this report enjoyable and informative.

If you would like to speak to governors or find out more about the work we do to support Berrymede, then please feel free to contact us through the school office.