

Elmgrove Nursery and Primary School Governors Report – 2024/25

Hello parents, carers, staff and pupils,

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of the school year. The last few weeks of warm weather has slipped us into summer without us even realising. As always, this year has been jam-packed and like other Governors I remain proud to be part of Elmgrove's community. I have been Chair for almost 4 years now and a governor at school for over 8 years and I am astounded by the continued development, hard work and success our school enjoys each year.

We won Aylward 24 competition, for the 4th year in a row! We continue to trailblaze in the Wondermaths competition, winning for the 3rd year in a row! These are both brilliant achievements! Governors are massively impressed with these results, and also the emerging results we are seeing from the implementation of Read, Write Inc! We met our expected phonics standards, and this is down to the hard work and dedication of our staff and our parents! Phonics is such an important part of our learning, and we are pleased to see the school has adopted the new programme so well.

Alongside this, we were pleased to see Elmgrove participate in the Songfest where both our Choir and Rockband featured. This year, parents will have noticed that alongside our core curriculum, the school has made a concerted effort to engage our pupils in wider clubs and activities to engage their core skills. It has been great to hear different clubs developing successfully in school. Do encourage your children to join if they want to develop new skills and explore their creative side!

We have had a focus on our early years provision this year and the development of the new climbing frame and water station completes phase one of our early years outdoor area. We've socialised the further phases and look forward to these being developed in the coming years. It has been great to see the pupils using the equipment and exploring through play to develop their key skills.

Excitingly, we have also re-gained access to our much-loved field! Since the development of the new building, we have been lobbying the Department for Education to re-instate our access, and I know the school are pleased to have it back. This space provides more flexibility to the use of our outdoor space and provides the pupils (especially our football lovers) more space to run around and enjoy the fresh air.

The use of the playground has also extended to the very successful Party in the Playground where the school raised over £5000, all of which will go towards expanding the schools outdoor provision. This event was primarily led by staff and a few parents, I want to personally thank everyone who played a role, and would ask that more parents and carers join the organisation next year to make it bigger and better!

Parent and Carer engagement is an important part of our work at school, and we were disappointed to see that no parents participated in our annual parent survey which was open for a while. Whilst I understand giving feedback to the school can be tricky when we are juggling multiple responsibilities, we are reliant to hearing from you about how we can be better for you and our pupils. I would encourage parents to look out for this next year.

Whilst I am pleased to share that attendance in school is broadly in line with the national average, this year Elmgrove experienced high levels of pupil attrition. The number of leavers and joiners within the school year, reached over 150 pupils. This is primarily due to the transient nature of our borough for many pupils, but also the reduced birth rate in Harrow more generally. The fluctuations in numbers unfortunately have an impact on our finances and we are managing this very carefully. Our budget is our lifeline to ensuring our pupils get the best experience possible, so governors will be paying particular focus on how we increase our income over the next few years.

This year we have also seen several new governors join and this brings fresh perspective, energy and skill into our Board. Our focus for the early part of next year will be governance efficiency and ensuring the school is on track to complete the areas of focus identified by Ofsted in our last inspection.

A massive thanks goes to all our wonderful and dedicated staff; all of whom work tirelessly to ensure our pupils get the best out of their time in Elmgrove. I also want to thank all my fellow Governors for continuing to volunteer their free time to support the school, and a massive thanks goes to Miss Neary, who remains a steadfast and ambitious headteacher for our school.

To our parents and pupils – thank you. You are what makes Elmgrove sparkle! Have a wonderful, warm and restful summer. We look forward to welcoming you back to school in September.

On behalf of all Governors, our best wishes,

Misha Upadhyaya

Chair of Governors