

# Poverest Governor's Newsletter

Autumn 2024



## Looking Ahead to Autumn Term 2024

As your Governing Body, our priorities remain to provide for our community, ensuring that our children benefit from the best education possible. Thank you to all our stakeholders...staff, parents/carers/guardians and of course children, for their hard work and support during the Summer Term. If you are new to our school, may your experience be positive and enjoyable.

Our staff have shown much dedication and commitment, and our children have demonstrated resilience in so many ways.

We are obviously very pleased with the outcomes from the last academic year, including 4 well deserved awards: Arts Silver Award; Eco-Schools Green Flag Award; Schools Sport Gold Award and NCE Computer Award. In addition, Ofsted's judgement of Poverest being a "good" school (under the last judgement criteria) was well deserved, with the implementation of a new curriculum utilising Kapow for delivery and positive feedback throughout the year from our School Improvement Partner, reflecting a year of growth and progress, about which we are proud.

## The Work of the Governing Body

An important aspect of governance is to ensure we see first-hand the decisions being made by the school leaders and the positive impact they are having on school development. Last year was a busy one!

## How do we conduct our business?

We oversee the school's business, mainly through several formal meetings:

- The Full Governing Body meets each half-term to consider the main business of governors.
- Two committees – Behaviour for Learning (3 in total) and Resources including Health and Safety (3 in total).
- The Headteacher's performance and staff pay matters are considered by special committee meetings twice a year.

Our annual Governors' Day focussed on Safeguarding, Children's Engagement via learning walks, and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) linked to suspensions (we have never undertaken a suspension, due to our inclusive nature, but we felt as a Governing Body, that we might need training on this to formulate an understanding of what a suspension means). We also had a presentation of the exciting new developments within The Orchard - the specialist provision for Autism within the school.

In our role as 'critical friends', we ask questions to clarify, understand, and challenge the school leadership team. Our questions relate to:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and the strategic direction of our school.
2. Holding leaders including, the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and all children, along with the effective and efficient performance management of all staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure our money is well spent.
4. Ensuring that our school promotes high standards of educational achievement.

## Our Current Strategic Priorities

We are keen to move forward from our latest 'Good' OFSTED rating, developing further our journey towards becoming an outstanding school. In liaison with Mr Haylock, we have identified several areas for ongoing improvement which include:

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together*

*grow  
together*

*Succeed  
together*



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- To further consolidate teaching and learning across the school, to further improve children's outcomes.
- To check what children know and remember over time in all subjects; Leaders are to ensure that all teachers check routinely what children know and remember, to strengthen their knowledge and address any gaps in learning.
- Ensure there is a curriculum Evaluation of Kapow and further developments of the curriculum across the school.
- To further develop EYFS.
- To ensure there is a consistent approach by all teachers to reading, especially linked to teaching systematic procedures to support children to decode and blend words.
- To continue to ensure Behaviour, Safeguarding and Children's Well-being are a pivotal part of our Poverest Community.
- Leaders to support the relaunching of Provision, (The Orchard) so that there is a clear vision for future development; a bespoke curriculum for learners; clear accreditation pathways for staff, and a refurbished learning environment for all children who attend The Orchard.

## Attendance

Attendance is a big focus for Poverest. If children are not in school, then learning suffers, and very quickly children can become disadvantaged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and restrict appointments where possible to out of school hours. If you have any concerns about your child or would like advice on attendance, please speak with the school office or Mrs Wilson - our lead for school attendance.

## Academic achievement and Attendance

The Department for Education's (DfE) research consistently emphasises the direct correlation between attendance and academic success.

Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as children have more opportunities to engage with classroom materials, participate in discussions, and receive timely feedback from teachers.

According to the DfE's data, children with good attendance records are more likely to achieve throughout their schooling – which demonstrates the critical role attendance plays in fostering a positive learning environment.

## Attendance and Children's Wellbeing

Additionally, the DfE's research also highlights the impact of attendance on children's social and emotional well-being. Regular school attendance fosters a sense of belonging and connection within the school community.

Children who attend school regularly are more likely to develop positive relationships with peers and teachers, enhancing their overall emotional resilience and mental health.

## Parking

Governors continue to closely monitor and seek to positively influence the parking situation in and around our school. We have vigorously promoted our School Street, and are currently in communication with Bromley Council, so that they understand our needs before acting, and then plan accordingly. Hopefully any current anomalies will be dealt with effectively. Please think carefully about where you park, keeping speed to a minimum, thus demonstrating concern for the safety of everyone. We also encourage our children to walk to school, thus supporting environmental sustainability. Remember, we are role models for our children.

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As the Governing Body, we have enjoyed working with Mr. Haylock during his first year of headship. His vision for our school is taking shape. We can see the school progressing and are looking forward to the future.

## Headline News SATS / Phonics Results

### SATS Results

#### In Year 6,

**68% achieved expected standard or above in Reading, with 23% achieving higher level of attainment.**

**67% achieved expected standard or above in Writing, with 4% achieving higher level of attainment.**

**68% achieved the expected standard in Maths, with 11% achieving higher level of attainment.**

**Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling 74% achieved expected standard or above in GPAS, with 32% achieving higher level of attainment.**

### Phonics Results

**80% of the cohort achieved the expected standard of a score of 32 or more.**

**Well done, to all in both Phonics and SATS.**

### EYFS

The Governors would like to welcome all new children and parents/carers to Poverest in the EYFS part of the school. We know your child's educational journey will be an exciting one. As Governors we are proud of Poverest and its achievements to date.

### Getting in Touch

Parents/carers will establish effective contact with relevant staff. The Parent's Forum provides a good opportunity for discussion, and each class should have at least one representative who can attend regularly. The Friends of Poverest (FOP) really has tremendous potential for community links and initiatives, raising funds to provide for those extras which we could otherwise not afford.

All are welcome to contact our Governing Body directly...letters should be addressed to the Chair and delivered to the school office.

Alternatively, please email [stysall@poverest.co.uk](mailto:stysall@poverest.co.uk) and address your correspondence for the attention of the Governing Body.

With very best wishes to you all.

Poverest School Governing Body.

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