

Governors' Newsletter



Message from the Chair

We are incredibly proud of the rich tapestry that makes up our school community, comprising over 35 different first languages and children with a wide range of abilities and talents, some facing significant barriers to their learning. Our children thrive in this dynamic environment, learning to appreciate their own backgrounds, abilities and beliefs while developing respect, compassion and tolerance for others.



Celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion is, and always has been, at the very heart of our school ethos. Every pupil at East Sheen Primary School is recognised as unique, is valued and is celebrated. As a school, we are ambitious for every child regardless of their background.

As a governing body, inclusion continues to be a central focus of our work. We have two dedicated link governors for children eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant, two link governors for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, a link governor for children who have English as an additional language and a governor with responsibility for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Link governors regularly meet with the Senior Leadership Team and together, we ensure that our policies, decisions and strategic priorities keep the needs and experiences of all children at the forefront.

It is extremely pleasing that the school's ongoing focus on high-quality teaching is having a clear and positive impact. Over the past few years, teachers have worked hard to refine a broad, engaging and carefully sequenced curriculum. The emphasis on rich vocabulary, the development of strong oracy skills and well-planned progression across all subjects means that every pupil is supported to make excellent academic progress. This is reflected in the attainment and progress data, which is rigorously analysed across different pupil groups.

Beyond the classroom, the school continues to prioritise attendance, wellbeing and pupils' sense of connection, ensuring that every child feels safe, supported and part of our community. In addition, the extensive range of clubs – designed to cater for many interests and talents – gives children further opportunities to discover what they love and to form friendships across year groups. We know that a child who feels happy, included and confident is far more likely to achieve their potential, and this principle guides the school's pastoral and enrichment work.

On behalf of the governing body, I would like to thank our staff and parent community for their tireless efforts and valuable partnership in making our school such an inspiring place for our children to learn and grow.

Nathalie Townley
Chair of Governors

Nudging Norms and Running Routines

In the Autumn Term, a group of governors visited a number of classes to see how routines were being consistently embedded in the school and how ‘nudging’ could be used to amplify the behaviour that teachers want to see. Research shows that following a consistent set of routines helps children manage transitions from one task to another, reduces their cognitive load and maximises their ability to learn.

Behaviour was excellent in every classroom, and it was impressive to see how children from Reception upwards had learned daily routines, such as quickly responding to specific prompts from the teacher or putting their equipment away in the right place at the right time. For instance, teachers in every class used lolly sticks to choose volunteers to answer questions and children in every class moved swiftly from one task to the next.

Susannah Milligan
EAL Link Governor
Teaching and Learning Committee

Evaluating Attainment and Progress Data

Governors in the Teaching and Learning committee regularly engage in reviewing and analysing a number of sources of data to assess the academic performance of the school across cohorts. This includes considering the outcomes of statutory tests and assessments in Reception (Good Level of Development), Year 1 (phonics check), Year 2 (phonics check), Year 4 (multiplication check) and Year 6 (SATs or Standard Assessment Tests) as well as internal assessments in other year groups. Not only do governors look at the attainment of the cohort as a whole, attention is also given to the achievement of different pupils groups. An analysis of the progress made by each group is also carried out.

This year, Ofsted has revamped the Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR) and changed the way in which schools’ results are presented. The new format makes it easier to put East Sheen’s attainment and progress data in the national context, as well as

compare it with local schools. Governors have welcomed this change as it really highlights just how impressive our results are. In 2025, East Sheen pupils consistently performed above the Richmond average (the highest performing borough in the

country) in all statutory measures of performance throughout the school, both in terms of the numbers meeting the expected standard and for those pupils achieving the higher standard. We are confident that the measures in place and the continued focus on excellent teaching will ensure these standards remain high, irrespective of the strengths and needs of individual cohorts.



What stands out to governors is that the school puts the right level of focus on preparing its pupils for these assessments, while maintaining a broad and exciting curriculum at ESPS among other educational opportunities on offer. It is also obvious from the interactions that governors have with staff and pupils that there is a strong love of learning at East Sheen that we hope will continue way beyond their time with us.

Andrew Miller
Chair, Teaching and Learning Committee

Grateful to the PTA and Volunteers

The Governing Body are once again extremely grateful to the PTA, class reps and parents for their dedication to fundraising. The **2025 Christmas Fair raised over £18,500** and the new PTA committee – which took over this academic year – continues to work closely with the school to direct these funds for maximum pupil benefit.

PTA contributions typically support special one-off projects rather than day-to-day running costs such as salaries. This year, investment focused on installing new wall art to the main school building, including a fully magnetic world map, history timeline and art gallery to display pupils' work, as well as IT improvements and other enhancements to pupils' learning experiences. This would not have been possible without PTA resources, which remain vital to enriching the school environment.



We would like to thank all our incredible volunteers who give their time and energy to support East Sheen. Whether you've helped in classrooms, supported events, tidied outdoor spaces, or simply stepped in when an extra pair of hands was needed, your contribution makes an enormous difference to the experience of our children. Our school community is stronger, happier, and more vibrant because of you, and we are truly grateful for the commitment and care you bring.

As we look ahead to the coming months, we warmly welcome anyone who may be able to offer their time to volunteer. From sweeping leaves in the playground, watering plants in our gardens, assisting as a dining room helper, or supporting small school projects throughout the year, there are many ways to contribute. Whether you can spare an hour a week or provide occasional help, every contribution is valued. If you're interested in joining our wonderful volunteer community, please contact the school office – we'd be delighted to have you involved.

Sarah Odds
Resources Committee

Attendance

Attendance is the cornerstone of educational success - crucial to pupils' development and academic attainment while providing them with a safe place to fully engage in their learning journey. Indeed, national data consistently shows a strong correlation between high attendance and improved attainment in reading, writing, and maths.

At East Sheen Primary, we have focused on attendance for a number of years. It has been a target on the Children, Families and Communities committee's School Development Plan since before the pandemic and governors have received regular updates from the Headship Team on attendance data (including national comparisons) and the impact of new initiatives. We were therefore delighted when ESPS was named a 'higher performer' by the Department for Education in recognition of the school's commitment to supporting families and children with strong attendance. But our attendance policy is not focused on statistics alone; it is deeply rooted in the wellbeing of our pupils.

Happy | Curious | Resilient | Kind

By establishing clear expectations and communicating them effectively to parents, carers, and students, we have fostered a shared responsibility in maintaining high attendance while supporting our wider school community. In providing targeted support to families, we ensure that every child feels valued and included. This collaborative spirit contributes to a positive school environment, where everyone works together to ensure the best outcomes for pupils.

The success of our collective efforts at ESPS are evident in the school's high attendance rates, academic achievement, and enhanced wellbeing of our pupils. By adopting a proactive, inclusive and supportive approach, the school has created a thriving community where every child is encouraged to attend, participate, and succeed. A big thank you to everyone for your continued support and help with ensuring East Sheen remains a brilliant place to learn and grow.

Emmet Regan
Safeguarding Link Governor
Children, Families and Communities Committee Chair

Safeguarding as a Shared Responsibility

Safeguarding at ESPS is not a single policy or procedure; it is a shared commitment that runs through everyday school life. As Safeguarding Link Governors, our role is to provide assurance that this commitment is active, visible, and consistently upheld across the school community.

What stands out at ESPS is the collective understanding that keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility. From classroom practice to playground routines, and from leadership decisions to conversations with families, safeguarding is woven into every aspect of how the school operates. This approach ensures that concerns are recognised early, responded to appropriately, and followed through with care.



A key part of our role as governors is to maintain an independent overview: spending time in school, asking questions, and ensuring that safeguarding arrangements remain strong, current, and proportionate. We also look closely at how clearly safeguarding messages are communicated, so that children know who they can talk to, parents feel confident raising concerns, and staff feel supported in acting promptly and confidently.

Safeguarding is not static. Children's needs change, risks evolve, and expectations rightly remain high. East Sheen takes this responsibility seriously, reflecting on practice and strengthening systems where needed. As governors, we are confident that safeguarding remains the highest priority and are committed to supporting the school in maintaining a safe, caring and nurturing environment for every child.

Raef Jackson
Safeguarding Link Governor

Governor Information

Earlier this year, we were delighted to welcome Victoria Strang (Assistant Headteacher) onto the Teaching & Learning committee as an Associate and Christelle Pearson (a current ESPS parent) onto the Resources committee, also as an Associate to the board.

After the half-term break, Sarah Hayes will be taking over from Kate Laidlaw as clerk to the governing board. We would like to thank Kate for all her hard work and support over the last year and a half.

You can find out more about who we are and what we do by visiting the school website [here](#). Although we are not currently recruiting, we are always keen to hear from anyone interested in becoming a governor and continue to work to diversify our board to more accurately reflect the diversity of our school community, welcoming interest from parents or carers from Black, Asian and other global and majority backgrounds. Please direct any enquiries to our clerk at clerktogovernors@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk
