

HOLY TRINITY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL,

Eagans Close, East Finchley, N2 8GA



GOVERNOR SURGERY NOTES

November 3RD 2017

Governor Attendees: Paula Quiddington (Chair), Jac Miller, Tam Johnston

Approx 12 people came to the meeting, held in the Club Room at 9am, preceding the HTSA meeting. Here is an outline of what was discussed, to be fed back to the FGB on November 7th for discussion and delegation.

Main items discussed:

1) Prospect Ring development plans.

A parent asked what the Governors' position was. PQ responded that we are in contact with the Prospect Ring action group to put a joint proposal to Barnet to dispute the current planning application.

Governing Body Response: Governors will ask for parental feedback through the newsletter (and parent reps will ask their class for feedback) so we can create a school response to send to Barnet. To be started Friday November 17th 2017, closing date for responses Friday December 1st.

2) Admissions.

A parent presented feedback that it is commonly perceived locally, that in order to get a place at HT you need to attend church. It was suggested that we change the Admissions Policy to accommodate community places, to show parents that we are open to applications other than through the church.

In addition, it was suggested we group all siblings together on the oversubscription criteria, rather than allocate church siblings a place before any other sibling. Governors pointed out that changes to the Admissions Policy will not be put into practise now until the 2020/2021 policy update.

JM also noted that currently Barnet Schools website asks all applicants to fill in the SIF, to be signed by the Priest. This needs removing from the Barnet site, together with a note that if families are looking for a foundation place, they should contact the school directly (or see the school website) for a SIF.

PQ showed statistics to prove the number of church applications is actually decreasing and that in the 2017 reception class we actually had 7 church

applications (including siblings) and 23 community applications. A parent asked if we could show the furthest distance for a community place in 2017.

The discussion changed direction to advertising and promoting this information.

Governing Body Response: Governors agree that it is the inaccurate perception that needs changing and that our priority is to keep the school full. With the help of parent volunteers, the quickest way to change perceptions is to create accurate marketing material to better inform the wider community and to end the misunderstanding that places are only guaranteed at HT, to those who attend church.

By marketing more effectively through social media, the school website and the local press, we hope to promote the availability of community places in Nursery and Reception and to reposition HT as a local school for local families. This will include publicising statistics of our admissions to date and any trends that are emerging.

3) The school website and advertising via social media.

Parents suggested the information about Admissions could be better advertised locally. It was suggested we could start up a school Facebook page and Twitter account. Catherine (Y2) kindly offered to set up both for HT and to manage the content.

Other suggestions included updating the school website to make it more user friendly and to include information such as the Admissions figures on the home page. Finances aside, it could be something a parent involved in website design might like to manage for us, or it was suggested perhaps local secondary schools could be approached to ask if any students would like to take on the project, free of charge.

Governing Body Response: As above. Parent reps to ask the parent body if anyone can volunteer skills.

4) Secondary Schools and Feeder Places.

A parent asked if HT could do more to secure secondary places for our children.

PQ noted that local schools are moving away from feeder places, with the exception of the Archer and Compton. A parent asked, that with the increasing volume of primary children in the area in the immediate future, could Governors approach all local schools again, to ask that feeder places be allocated to HT? Suggestions included the Wren and Christ College.

A parent noted that the Archer will be consulting again on their Admissions Policy and asked that the Governors look again at objecting to their proposals for feeder schools outside of N2.

Meeting with secondary schools at HT was praised, but it was suggested in future they are better advertised and done separately from Parents Evenings. It was suggested we invite schools in on the SAT preparation meeting at the beginning of

the Autumn term, or at the Secondary Transfer Meeting at the end of the Spring term (for Y5 parents).

Governing Body Response: As a matter of policy, the Governing Body will not be pursuing feeder places at local secondary schools. We see secondary schools throughout Barnet and beyond moving away from identifying feeder schools in their admission policies, and as we all recently experienced with the Archer Academy, the introduction of feeder schools can create upset and inequalities. The governors will of course consider any future secondary school consultation, with input from the parent body, and will respond appropriately in the best interests of all the children at HT.

Governors have decided not to invite secondary schools for an open evening at HT next year, owing to poor levels of parental attendance.

5) Governors Priorities.

A parent asked what the Governors/school priorities are this year. The parent was directed to the School Improvement Priorities plan on the school website, under the 'About us' tab. PQ explained that this information was presented to the Parent Reps and will be filtered down in more detail to all parents in the coming weeks.

In the longer term, the school Vision 2022 is currently being worked on, in conjunction with the parents, staff and governors and will be presented shortly.

Governing Body Response: The School Improvement Priorities list is now on the school website and was highlighted to parents in the school newsletter on Friday November 10th. Information on the school's 'Vision 2022' will be passed on to the parent body, as the project develops.