

Message from the Chair



Kevin Hinde: Chair of Governors

It's a great pleasure to write to you all at the mid point of the year here at John Scurr Primary. Whenever visiting the school I am always touched by the friendly enthusiasm of your children. We are a school committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes of all our pupils through the partnership and enthusiasm of parents and the local community. We are also a school that makes links nationally with effective partnerships and our extensive educational visit programme.

We remain in the top 20% of schools nationally for the value we add to a child's education from their starting point in reception and we are particularly proud of our ability to keep the curriculum broad and balanced so that your children leave us being 'THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BE'.

Of course we must keep our focus on the future and ensure our pupils attain the results they need to be well placed for progressing into further education and onward into the wider community.

On behalf of our Governors, I would like to thank all the schools staff and children for their ongoing hard work and all of you for your continued support of the school.

Meet the Governors



Jemima Reilly - Curriculum Committee - English

Jemima became Headteacher at Morpeth School in September 2013. She had previously worked in the school in a number of roles including Head of English, Learning Co-ordinator, Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher.



Janet Bergin - Miah Staff Wellbeing & Curriculum

I got to know John Scurr School as Associate Assistant Head Teacher/ SENDCo from a secondary school in the E1 partnership. Visiting the school to manage the transition from Year 6 into Year 7; I saw the school go from strength to strength and have been particularly impressed by the forward-thinking and creative approach adopted to overcome challenges and maximise pupil progress.



Xina Li - Chair of Finance committee

The industry I work in organise Number/Reading Partner schemes whereby a group of volunteers attend a primary school in Tower Hamlet during lunch hours to help children with their maths and reading skills through either playing maths-based games or reading books with the children.

This is how I came to know John Scurr and the reason why I am also the Maths Link Governor as I have a keen interest in mathematics and encouraging children to develop their maths skills through fun and engaging ways of learning. I have a background in engineering and also in the financial services sector. Being a School Governor means that I can use my financial skills to help challenge the school budget and it is a great way to give something back to the community.



Nazrul Islam - Associate Parent Governor - Curriculum Committee

As a part of my professional development, I run peer led groups and coach prison mentors, as well as oversee rehabilitation programs we run in our unit. As a long-standing member of our community, I believe I have a good understanding of our needs and how to support our children to reach their full potential. I am glad to be part of this vibrant team and have the opportunity to ensure that the school's vision and mission are in the best interest of our youth.



Julie De Young - Co-opted Finance Committee & Inclusion

I became a school governor around three years ago. It's been interesting to learn the complexities behind running a primary school.

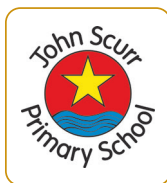
My professional life has included a significant amount of time working in the voluntary sector providing support to vulnerable people of all ages. In addition to service provision, my roles included recruitment, training and supervision, as well as working on strategic planning, policies and safeguarding matters. I participated in several management sub-committees during this time and I am very impressed by the range and depth of analysis and information John Scurr provides Governors with, enabling us to ensure that the pupils remain at the centre of all of the schools' decision-making.



Foyej Uddin - Parent Governor Finance Committee

I have previously worked within schools and corporate companies leading teams to achieve objectives. I am willing to support the school and challenge them to best meet the needs of the children.

I want to build a rapport with all those involved in developing the school so we can better serve the community. I can benefit the school with my interaction and communication skills and represent parents as a governor and not just be a parent that's a governor.



Emily Purdy - Safeguarding Vice Lead - Curriculum Early Years

I studied French and German at Durham University followed by a year in China teaching English as a foreign language before training to become a solicitor. I now work as a lawyer for a small business lender.

I became a governor as a way of connecting my interest in education with giving back to the local community. I've enjoyed witnessing the happy faces of children as they learn new facts, make friends and expand their horizons at John Scurr.



Kamal Uddin - Parent Governor (Curriculum Committee)

I have lived in Tower Hamlets for the past 35 years and have been working in a local GP practice for the last 15 years, where some of my time is spent on clinical work as well as being the IT lead and on the Senior Management Team.

I am confident that my knowledge of the local area and cultural background, not to mention being a father of 2 adorable daughters, both attending John Scurr, will be beneficial to a school as diverse as John Scurr in representing the parents' voice.

What Governors Do



The Governing Body's main purpose is to help raise education standards at John Scurr Primary by working alongside and supporting John Scurr's school leaders. We ensure that the school runs effectively, that quality teaching and learning is happening across the school, and that the budget is spent wisely so that the school provides good value for money.

We are there to give direction, focus and perform a strategic role, but the leadership and management of the school remains the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team.



Govenors are responsible for:

- Appointing the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher.
- Overseeing the school budget.
- Determining aims, policy and priorities.
- Monitoring and evaluating the work of the school.
- Setting targets.
- Ensuring high levels of attendance and good standards of behaviour.
- Ensuring that all children in the school have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which prepares them for adult life.
- Health & Safety of our building, staff and pupils.

New

John Scurr Primary School
These dates merge with Morpeth our local secondary school

Autumn Term		Pupil Days
Term 1	Friday 1st September 2023 - Friday 20th October 2023	36
Half Term	Monday 23rd October 2023 - Friday 27th October 2023	
Term 2	Monday 30th October 2023 - Thursday 21st December 2023	39
Christmas Break	Monday 25th December 2023 - Friday 5th January 2024	
Spring Term		
Term 3	Monday 8th January 2024 - Friday 9th February 2024	25
Half Term	Monday 12th February 2024 - Friday 16th February 2024	
Term 4	Monday 19th February 2024 - Thursday 28th March 2024	29
Easter Break	Friday 29th March 2024 - Friday 12th April 2024	
Summer Term		
Term 5	Monday 15th April 2024 - Friday 24th May 2024	29
Half Term	Monday 27th May 2024 - Friday 31st May 2024	
Term 6	Monday 3rd June 2024 - Friday 19th July 2024	35

EID

- School remains open
Although school will be open for Eid day, staff and pupils who celebrate will be given exceptional leave
- TWILIGHT SESSIONS
4 Sessions (Dates TBC)
- TRAINING DAYS
3 Days (TBC)

New Learning Lodge



97% of parents attend our parent's meetings



Being at John Scurr is Great

1

In 2022-23 John Scurr Primary took part in 1 residential trip. Taking part in residential trips is not only a lot of fun, but research shows that it improves academic performance too.

25

Organised day trips in total for the children from Nursery to Year 6, which were overseen by Joe Bentley and our class teachers.

John Scurr Vision

For everyone in the John Scurr Primary School community:

I will keep trying to learn new skills to grasp all of life's exciting opportunities

I will grow healthy and strong and will know how to look after myself

I will see the good in others and they will see the good in me.

My friends and my family all feel proud of our school community

I will have the confidence to think for myself, explore and take risks so that I can.

BE THE BEST THAT I CAN BE!

We remain in the top 20% of schools nationally for the value we add to a child's education from their starting point in reception.

Top
20%



At John Scurr everyone's a learner

Training and development for staff is something we take very seriously at John Scurr. In 2022/2023:

All teachers took part in Unity training days together.

All Teachers took part in many hours of in-school Phonics training.

New teachers took part in an extra 39 hours of training on top of this!

Teaching assistants took part in 30 hours of in-school training.

We also sent staff on many training courses!

Parents were busy learning too, and took part in different courses at school including online e-safety and healthy eating workshops.

Governors need to learn too, so we had training on understanding Ofsted and safeguarding.

80% of our Year 1 pupils passed the phonics screening test.

School Improvement Priorities 2022-23

Special Achievements

- 1** National runner up in the Lycra Speaks competition.
- 10** Winners of Debate Mate
- 94%** Reported that their children feel safe at school.
- 16** Members of staff have been trained in First Aid
- 12** Football and Athletics winners in Tower Hamlets competitions
- 3** County level athletes

Our 3 areas of improvement are the focus of the whole school community. We believe that if we focus on these three areas are outcomes for our pupils will be improved.

- 1** To improve spelling and writing outcomes. Rejuvenate and re-instate oracy and P4C offer. Embed phonics and Early reading, including our library
- 2** Rejuvenate and develop parent sessions and partnership liaison (Learning lodge). Embed our behaviour policy, improve MFL, RE and Music.
- 3** Improve outdoor, rural offers and Early Years outcomes including transition to Year 1. Progression (Unity CUSP).



Our Staff Governors



Maria Lewington, Headteacher



Keeley Aldrough - Deputy HT



Joanne Power - Assistant HT



Fabienne Aino King - Class Teacher

Local Authority Governor



Councillor Sirajul Islam, LA Governor

As a long-standing Governor, I have worked with two previous head teachers and different governing bodies. I have seen the evolution of the school over the past 20 years to the present one under Maria Lewington's leadership.

As governors we are passionate about education & welfare of our children. Most of our children come from a deprived background and live in overcrowded homes. Despite all this our children are excelling in their education attainment.

This is thanks to our parents' commitment & guidance together with the learning provided by our excellent teachers. John Scurr school and its governors are committed to fulfilling the potential of our children.

93%

Community Investment

This year we have invested heavily in our engagement with you the parents, I am really pleased that 97% of you turned up to your parent meetings last term and that the uptake for Wednesday Workshops, Stay and Play and our 1:1 meets continue to be very well attended and are having a really positive impact on your child's future.

HEALTHY
SCHOOLS
LONDON

GOLD AWARD

OUR SCHOOL VALUES

- Resilience
- Resourcefulness
- Respect
- Reflection
- Readiness

In 2022/23 we trained **6**
new teachers to teach in Primary Schools

3 Parent Governors

Foyej Uddin - Finance Committee

Kamal Uddin - Curriculum Committee

Nazrul Islam - Associate Governor

Kamal and Nazrul have spent time in school meeting our Pupil Voice Committee. All 3 governors are new to their role and already have met with the Head teacher to help talk about the school priorities for the next academic year.

Parent Governors act in the same capacity as co-opted and staff governors but have the experience of being a current parent. Parent governors help form the strategic direction of the school but like all governors, do not get involved with the day to day running of the school.



Our 2 Year Old Provision

20 Pupils will be attending from Summer 2023

2.5 FTE staff plan, teach and care for our 2 Year olds

15 Hours are available for 2YO, if you have the required code

I really enjoyed meeting with the governors and I'm pleased I now know who they are and what they do at our school. Though, in future I would like to have the chance to meet ALL of the governors, and to get to know them.

*Safiyah Ahmed - Pupil Voice Rep
Rashford Class
Year 4*

24 Pupil Voice Reps

On Thursday 23rd March 2023, the Pupil Voice Committee met with the school governors. We only met with 3 of them, including Kevin, the Chair of Governors.

They asked us lots of questions, such as what it's like to be in Pupil Voice Committee and what have we done so far this year. They seemed very impressed by our answers.

We told the governors all about the events we'd organised, as well as our plans for the rest of the year.

Before meeting the governors, I didn't know much about them or what their role is at school. We asked lots of questions and found out lots more about how they help our school.

It turns out they are actually very important and have a lot to do with how our school is run. I was interested to find out that they don't get paid to be governors and they actually have other jobs!



15 hours available for 2 year olds with the required code