



Governors Statement for Academic Year 2023/24

This year at Park Lane has been particularly exceptional on several levels.

The school has continued to expand and develop its curriculum, tailoring the same to the ever-changing needs of our cohort and the resources available. As Governors we have sought to evidence and challenge the senior leaders of the School, including creating specialist committees, undertaking class visits, supporting staff recruitment, and ensuring that the school and its governing body continue to meet all statutory requirements.

Early in the year our long serving Head Teacher, Lorraine informed the Governors of her intention to retire at the end of this academic year. On behalf of all staff, pupils and Governors a simple 'Thank you' seems insufficient when considering the positive effect and inspiration Lorraine has encouraged in so many staff and their pupils.

Working closely with the school improvement partner, Gill Robinson MBE the Governors instigated a rigorous Head Teacher recruitment process. Although Governors interviewed some excellent external candidates, the recruitment panel and Governors were unanimous in their decision and are delighted to appoint the current Deputy Head, Emma Shaw in the Head teacher role from September. The Governors expect that Emma will be fully supported by both staff and parents to carry on the good work.

On the subject of good, we have recently had a full inspection by Ofsted and you will have been provided with a copy of their subsequent report. It is of course wonderful to receive external validation of the good (and so close to outstanding) school that Park Lane is. Well done to all who contributed to achieving this result.

Ofsted also confirmed that the safeguarding procedures adopted by the school remain effective and this continues to be overseen by Governors.

We are looking forward to next year, meeting new pupils and bidding goodbye to those who are leaving us enriched and enabled by the experience and teaching at Park Lane.

Tandy Palmes

Chris Milnes

Co-Chairs of Governors at Park Lane Special School.