

IEB Governance Update to West Hill Primary School parents and staff

December 2024

Since the IEB was appointed on 11th of November, we have been very busy getting to know the school and community, including meeting with individual parents, and groups of staff and parents on 27 October. This was our first opportunity to actually visit the school and we very much enjoyed seeing the school in action during the day and how delightful the children were. Thank you for your welcome.

Our top priority has been to finalise the arrangements for meeting the needs of children with medical conditions and my IEB colleague, Dr Janet Lavelle has been working closely with the school and with parents to agree protocols going forward. We expect to formally approve these arrangements at the IEB meeting this week.

We have also been looking at other policies that need to be approved, including Attendance.

Attendance is a national priority and even though the overall attendance levels for the school are good, they could be even better. Information will come from the school in the new year around this.

The IEB's Nicola Taylor-Bashford has met with the SENCo and Head to understand the school's approach to SEN and meeting children's needs in this area.

Where there are statutory links for governors to the different aspects of school's working, they are as follows:

Safeguarding	Dr Fiona Hammans
Health and Safety	Dr Janet Lavelle
Special Educational Needs	Nicola Taylor-Bashford
Attendance	Dr Fiona Hammans

If you have any questions or comments, then please feel free to contact me on chair@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk or via the school.

You will see that there is new information on the school's website on what an IEB is and how it works, and we have been able to secure additional resources from Devon County Council to help with finance support, and some additional school reviews are planned for the new year. These will help us (the IEB) to understand what works well at the school and where things could be even better. I will report back to you when these have taken place.

At the parents meeting in November, you asked us to explain why an IEB has been put in place. In many schools an IEB is usually because the school results are not strong enough or results are declining. This is not the case at West Hill.

Devon local authority has not raised concerns about standards in putting the IEB in place.

However, the school is designated as a 'school of concern' by the authority because of concerns about governance turbulence and strategic leadership. Our role as the IEB is to work with the school over the next few months with a view to begin to recruit a new governing body for the school to start in September 2025. We hope if everything works perfectly(!) that a handover between new governors and the IEB could take place towards the end of the summer term, ready for the new school year.

The IEB is planned to be in place for no more than 12 months, and we want to be sure that we can support new governors well, for the school's benefit.

There are no plans for academisation, although we will be looking at 'partnerships' (federations for example) as are all Devon governing bodies. We will let you know if/when we get to this stage as we progress.

In the meantime, can we (Janet, Nicola and me) wish you all a very happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the new year when we next visit the school.

Dr Fiona Hammans

Chair, West Hill Primary School IEB