

Inscape Governors' annual report to parents

Introduction

We welcome you to our summer term governor report. A governor's role is to monitor and evaluate the progress of the school. We do this in a variety of ways. We are "critical friends" to the headteacher and school senior leadership team. We do not manage the school on a day-to-day basis, we work as a group to guide and approve plans, ask challenging questions, and oversee activities within the school. We visit school on a regular basis at least 3 times a term for link governors, meet with staff, feedback to governor subgroups, and attend the termly main governor meeting. We have link governors who gain specific knowledge in an area to keep the governing body informed more closely, examples of this are safeguarding, careers/employability, health and safety, pupil well-being, teaching, and learning.

We are in the process of updating our strategy and will be introducing several more specific link governor roles for the next academic year. We will inform you on our progress in the Autumn term.

Our governors come from all walks of life and have an invaluable range of skills and experience. As a team the governors are ultimately responsible for the school performance.

Governors support the school in its vision, to provide a learning environment that places our young people at the heart of everything we do, where they feel valued and can thrive. Our mission is to champion their rights, needs and ambitions. At Inscape House School, young people are supported to reach their full potential, by understanding that they have a distinct way of thinking and perceiving the world.

If you have any questions about the role of governors at Inscape, please do not hesitate to contact the chair of governors or the headteacher. We would encourage you to visit the [school website](#) as much as possible, it has regular updates and holds key information about all aspects of school life.

Some of the highlights of this school year



Outside Learning Environment

This year improving our outside learning and therapy environment has been a key focus of the governing body. We are very fortunate to have a beautiful campus at Cheadle, rich in biodiversity and ecology. The outside environment is an important element for developing self-expression, self-regulation, self-confidence, creativity. A place to reflect and retreat to connect with nature.

Our new forest area has been designed with many learning and wellbeing opportunities in mind. A sensory experience through the variety of planting in

texture, colour and scent. A place to learn new skills in garden design, maintenance, and development. Our pond is an eco-centre of its own and in time will be home to many interesting species and teach water safety. Our poly tunnel and raised planting stations link to curriculum teaching in many areas, science, art, careers, horticulture, farming, food technology. Young people can practice their Duke of Edinburgh skills, bush craft and den building. The opportunities are endless.



Outside Gym



This area has seen significant improvement this year with a complete revamp. We have bought a range of new equipment for exercise, to develop confidence, general health, and wellbeing, and develop fine and gross motor skills. It has proved to be a huge success for students.



Animal Learning



Young people enjoy learning about animal welfare in animal employability lessons.

They practice conducting health checks on our guinea pigs and miniature tortoise. The therapeutic effects of our school animals can decrease learner anxiety and increase confidence and self-esteem



Careers/Employability

We are continuing to grow our partnerships with employers. These open invaluable opportunities for our young people to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills valued in the workplace. They are also a great opportunity to raise confidence and self-esteem.

We do this by a range of enrichment opportunities including school visits, work experience and careers days. This year our young people have been able to access work experience at National Trust - Dunham Massey, Lower Moss Wood Animal Sanctuary, Bridge College, Together Trust central office, Booths Supermarket, O'Connor Utilities, Kitsch Republic, Inscape Cafe and library, Odd Fellows, Thornhill Landscaping and NPS Solar 1.

A very successful STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Maths) Day in May was host to a diverse range of organisations. This was a fun, interactive and informative day and helped young people explore a range of careers and future opportunities in science, technology, engineering, art, and maths.

☺ The organisations participating included:



☺ Royal Air Force - Our young people said, "I loved trying on the RAF pilot uniform and having a real-life size parachute attached to me and learning how to land."

☺ Manchester Hip Hop Archive and Beat Bazaar – the aim of this workshop was to help our young people to develop their creative play and express themselves through different forms of art.

☺ Inscape Science teachers – organised a workshop to explore careers in science and engineering.

☺ National Trust, Dunham Massey – organised a display and interactive discussion relating to nature, ecology, and wildlife at the Dunham estate.

☺ Roots2Grow – a business working in the creative mathematics industry.

We are very grateful and truly value the inspiration and commitment of our partner organizations' and would like to thank them for their continuing support.

If you know of an organisation that may be able to support our careers curriculum, please contact [Richard Nancollis](#) or [Marie Young](#).

Ofsted

Governors met with Ofsted inspectors during the school's 2-day inspection on 8th and 9th June.

Investors in Customers

Investors in Customers recently carried out an independent survey of our customers, including parents, carers, and local authorities.

We are very proud to have achieved Gold accreditation in this award, for the third time. Thank you to those families, young persons and carers who responded to the survey. We have seen significant improvements since 2019. Some of our highest scoring areas were:

- ✓ We can be relied on to do what's right for the students we support
- ✓ We understand what's important to you
- ✓ We try to make everything as straightforward as possible.

Thank you for your suggestions on how we could do things better; these included:

- ★ Better menu choices and dietary support for those with food aversions
- ★ Have coffee evenings
- ★ Make efforts to push children as much as possible academically
- ★ Stop mixing age groups of children i.e., Primary and Secondary
- ★ Have better sensory experiences and Light Rooms

All great suggestions, and they've been acted on – School Council are talking with the Cook about menu choices, coffee evenings were reintroduced this term, there has been a lot of work on introducing the new curriculum, there will be no mixed age groups from September and work on three new sensory and Light Rooms will be completed over the summer holiday.

School Council

School Council meetings are well attended by young people from across the school and provide an opportunity for students at Inscape to have a voice and for that voice to be listened to. We are delighted at the response from students and at the maturity that students have shown during these meetings. Several of our governors have enjoyed being included in their discussions and hearing their suggestions, which included requesting better décor in the toilets (now being refurbished), and a Sports Day (Manchester United coach Emily has worked with our young people on ideas and events such as a skipping rope race), lunch time clubs, recycling bins in all classrooms and improving reading resources (school has followed up on this and organised magazine subscriptions as chosen by students).



150th Together Trust Anniversary

Following its run at The Lowry, the artwork featured in the Trust's 150 artist's exhibition moved to Manchester Central Library in April 2022.

Two of our young people showcased their talent, one young person talked about how attending Inscape had been life-changing and improved their confidence and wellbeing; they

now have great pride in being autistic. A second student impressed the audience with an amazing rendition of 'Rocket Man.'

Along with material from our archive, this was an opportunity to explore the Together Trusts history of pioneering change alongside some of the artwork created by the people we support. A heritage plaque was unveiled to mark our very first home at 16 Quay Street in Manchester. More about the Together Trust's 150-year history, including the digital timeline, can be found [here](https://togethertrust.org.uk).

Giles Gaddum, Trustee



Giles is the 5th member of his family to serve on the Trust Board over the course of 118 years. He is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of Governors of Inscape House School governing body. He runs his own tree felling and dry-stone walling company and is also a governor and trustee of several charities.

Jane Grime, Trustee

Jane is currently the Vice Chair of Governors of Inscape House School and link governor for careers and employability. She was a former governor of Ashcroft School for several years, including safeguarding chair, and played an instrumental role in a school build project. She has considerable experience in using autism services in the Northwest and long-term schooling.



Nigel Bailey, Appointed Governor



Nigel joined the governing body in July 2017. He is a Risk management consultant and advises on better Risk Management and revisions to systems and processes.

Sara Bayley, Head of Services

Sara joined the Together Trust in 2015 as Deputy Head Teacher at Inscape House School due to her passion and enthusiasm for working across age groups and students with a range of needs. She became acting Headteacher in November 2018 and substantive Headteacher in May 2019. Sara was appointed as Head of service for Bridge College and acting Head of service for Inscape House School in June 2021. Before joining the Trust, Sara had always worked in the education sector as a primary school teacher, senior manager and headteacher.



Becca Bromley-Woods, Appointed Governor



Rebecca joined the Trust as post-16 lead governor in 2019. She has a passion for championing the vulnerable and leads on all things education for Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, where she is the key point of liaison for harm reduction with schools, colleges, alternative provision, and universities across Greater Manchester.

Heather Brookes, Parent Governor

Heather joined Inscape House School as Parent Governor in December 2021. She has a Postgraduate Diploma in Autism Spectrum Conditions and has volunteered for the National Autistic Society as an online community moderator. Heather's son joined Inscape in 2018. She has supported vulnerable families for Home-Start Trafford, Salford, and Wigan since 2016 in both paid and voluntary capacities and is a current home-visiting volunteer.



Julie Delaney, Staff Governor



Julie is the school Receptionist at Inscape House school and is a staff governor. She is a qualified drama teacher and in her spare time works as a volunteer with the Royal Air Force cadets looking after the welfare of 5500 cadets in the North of England.

Kerry Fisher, Staff Governor

Kerry is teacher governor at Inscape House School. She started teaching at Inscape in 2019 and became a Phase Leader in 2020. Kerry is passionate about ensuring the best for all learners at Inscape House School.



Hannah Jones, Appointed Governor



Hannah became a governor at the school in 2022. She is an Assistant Headteacher and Special Educational Needs teacher in a Manchester school

Karen Kilkenny, Appointed Governor

Karen is Safeguarding and LAC governor and Primary phase link governor.



Steve Lawrenson, Parent Governor



Steve is married to Laura and has three children, the youngest of whom is in year 7 at Inscape. He has a degree in Materials Science and Engineering and has worked in the luxury car manufacturing industry for over twenty years as a Project and Quality Assurance Manager. He enjoys reading and science fiction drama.

David Maddock, Coopted Governor

David is supporting the staff at Inscape school with monitoring health and safety compliance for the school including fire safety and other statutory requirements. A governor at the school since early 2021, David carries out similar activity for the Esteem Academy SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Schools in Derbyshire. His early career was in construction management and for the last 20 years he has been running a health and safety consultancy specialising in construction activity and facilities management.



Steve Marsden, Coopted Governor



Steve was first elected to the governing body as a parent governor in 2004 and now serves as a co-opted governor. His son, who has severe autism and learning difficulties first came to Inscape House in 2001 and stayed at the school till he was 18 moving to the then new Together Trust outreach day provision at the HUB Salford. Steve says, "Inscape School continues to innovate, create, and develop education, pastoral, and enrichment provision for a wide range of young people with an equally wide range of abilities and needs where every child matters in an environment that proactively focuses on them reaching their potential."

Andrew Morris, Appointed Governor

Andrew has been a governor of Inscape School since April 2020 and is passionate about providing the best opportunities for our young people. Working for an educational charity and professional body, Andrew is an education and commercial professional who also has extensive experience in the built and natural environment sector.



Jill Sheldrake, Director Governor



Jill started her career with the Together Trust in 1996 and became a registered manager in 2005, joining the leadership team in 2014 as Director of Services. Hearing the inspiring stories about the people the Trust support sparked Jill's desire to work in our residential services. In 2017 Jill was awarded an MBE for services to children in the Northwest.

Michelle Slater, Appointed Governor

Michelle is a retired community dentist who specialised in care for people with complex needs and she has a particular interest in autism. She is married with two grownup children and three grandchildren. She loves gardening, travelling, and learning foreign languages.



Hannah Stollar, Headteacher Governor



Hannah is Head of Inscape House School. She says, "I feel privileged to be part of a team who work tirelessly to support all our students to surpass expectations and lead meaningful lives,"

Next steps 2022-23

- ☺ Develop links with local employers
- ☺ Develop links with stakeholders and the community
- ☺ Share our excellent practise with other schools
- ☺ Develop our outdoor learning curriculum and curriculum progression across the school

Work planned for the school includes refurbishing the toilets, the addition of two multi-sensory rooms and refurbishment of a further multi-sensory room, new swings and soft play surfaces in the **TASH** playground and Astro-turfing the M1 playground.

For those young people and their families leaving Inscape this summer, we wish you all the very best for the future and encourage you to keep in touch please, we would love to hear from you!

Thank you to all our parents, carers, staff, and governors for all your hard work, commitment, loyalty, and dedication as always, to inspire and ensure our high standards and continuous improvement is achieved. A huge thank you to our young people who are at the heart of everything we do.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th September.

Very best wishes
Inscape House School Governors