



HPSPC – Holland Park School Parent Collective

Via Email: hpsparentcollective@gmail.com

Tel: 07798 623 923

OUR CHILDREN, OUR SCHOOL

Not In Our Yard

Meeting, NEU, BMG, HPSPC, Staff, Students, Parents. 31st March 2022

Holland Park School Parent Collective – HPSPC - *Melanie Juno Wolfe.*

Holland Park School is not just a school. It is a community, a life force, an identity. There is a severe lack of understanding of who we are and what we stand for.

This includes excellence, resilience and a thirst for knowledge and learning in all its forms.

HPS takes in children of all abilities. It's staff and teachers are foremost in teaching and bringing excellence to our children.

As founder of North Kensington Community Kitchen we have been aware of the growing wealth/poverty gap from Ladbroke Grove to Holland Park and its environs. Huge, amassed wealth sits beside, literally next door, to poverty. Residents caught in a poverty trap which is now spiralling. Rent, fuel costs, food, clothing. Now basics are not affordable to many. Rent and fuel has to be paid - or there is no roof overhead. Clothing and food quickly become unaffordable. Housing advice, Works and benefits advice, Digital support are all needed to help slow the demise of parts of our community.

This is ultimately what this is all about. Disparity and behaviour of those who have amassed resources and are forcing it upon us without good practice, transparency or consultation.

We were brought in at the very last minute to sit on a parent panel for headteachers - yet we don't know what we as a school will be by this time next year. How can we possibly choose a headteacher?

We have asked many times for a meeting with the interim governing body. We have asked straightforward questions and have had no response to the vast majority.

We have consistently requested transparency and consultation in order that we may see and listen to the proposals that were on the table.

We believe that this is the very least that should be done. To go from one body that is criticised by this governing body - to this one whose behaviour is extraordinary, secretive and frankly unacceptable to HPS parents, children and staff is incredulous.

Members are being added to our governing body without informing us - members who have links to DfE. the buddy system is alive and well.

We have still not been informed of our last Parent Governor leaving the board, leaving us with no PG's.

The ballots for PG's - we submitted our information last year, went out at 4.58pm on Friday evening. My name was left off the ballot list. It was then reissued without apology, on Mothering Sunday at 3.30pm. This is a serious intervention on their part and will quite possibly cost me a place on the board. I have been informed that this subterfuge is normal practise.

We receive plenty of serious nods and understanding looks. It is infuriating to be told - we aren't paid for this, we are working hard for your children. But - this is not for our children. We again and again see incestuous appointments. Yes, these are sometimes people with good skills. But they should be paid so that they are accountable. No doubt they will be paid in titles soon enough. They are accountable to no one and have made this abundantly clear to us. This is supposed to be a democratic country. This is no way to treat the thousands of people whose lives this will effect. We are asking for transparency and effective, meaningful consultation. We want transparency and consultation for our children's lives.

The wealthier parents at HPS are already sourcing alternative schools. Some have no choice but to stay. This governing board is disseminating and pulling our school apart. Yes we need regularity systems, yes we need oversight, yes we need good safeguarding and SEN. A huge MAT will not answer our needs. It will smash them. We have a team at our Local Authority, RBKC, who are on stand by to step in and to work with us, partnering us through this time in order to stabilise HPS and allow it to thrive and reach each child's potential.

Why are we not allowed to know of the proposals that have been dismissed? We know for example that the Local MAT was not seen by all trustees. We do not know whether a SAT with RBKC oversight has been considered.

We need a headteacher that is dynamic, skilled and ready to take on the task of steering HPS towards the future whilst retaining its excellence and its unique character.

It is the 5th year of the Grenfell Tower atrocity. We want to reach out within our own community, build bridges and partnerships, allow our children to heal. Why can we not see a Local MAT proposal? Why can we not have options. Why do we have to be shunted off to the countries largest academy when there are better options for us that can be in place by September.

So, Governing Body, those who wish to impose upon us and our children, we say a defiant - **not in our yard.**