



## Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School

### Governors' Newsletter

Issue 30: Spring 2025

The Spring Term has continued with a strong and cohesive staff team in place. Barton's Christian values (love, respect, integrity, justice, thankfulness and determination) are firmly embedded with our pupils and continue to be reinforced via the "Living Our Barton Values" project. We are in a strong place to meet the statutory inspections anticipated in the Summer Term.

We have been delighted with the number of curriculum enrichment opportunities the school has been able to provide for our pupils, for example an Egyptian Day, football and netball competitions, visit to the Cambridge Festival Schools' Day and science and Lego STEM workshops. We recognise the enormous value these provide in bringing the curriculum to life and inspiring the children to become curious learners.

We express our gratitude again to the school and wider community for the support for FOBS' fundraising this year. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to support this year's five-class structure whilst resourcing the curriculum. The Robin Class equipment has been replenished and updated and we are in a position to embark on a number of other repair and renewal projects later in the year. We look forward to continuing these fundraising efforts as we head into the Summer Term, to continue to relieve budget pressures.

The governors welcome comments about what we do and what we could be doing better. If you would like to contact us, please email:

**[chair@barton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@barton.cambs.sch.uk) or [clerk@barton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@barton.cambs.sch.uk)**

#### Report from Full Governing Body (FGB)



*Caroline Parsons is the Chair of Governors.  
Caroline is a Co-Opted Governor.*

This term in their FGB meetings the governors have raised standards by:

- approving the proposed class structure for 2025/26 to ensure that pupils benefit from the best learning experience possible
- reviewing policies to ensure that they are fit for purpose and meet statutory requirements and that procedures within school and the governing body comply accordingly
- planning for the pupil, parent and staff consultations to take place in the Summer Term to allow for time to implement actions arising from feedback

- received and ensure a wide range of voices are heard
- examining the Yearly Operational Plan, Self-Evaluation Form and Three-Year Strategic Plan to review progress against school's strategic priorities
- reviewing options for the property management contract to ensure that the final decision balances value for money against quality of service provision
- discussing staff and pupil wellbeing to ensure that support is provided to meet individual needs so that staff and pupils feel a valued part of the community
- examining recommendations from the LA English Adviser to re-organise the library and class libraries by age-appropriateness and genre, thus broadening pupils' reading skills and experience
- welcoming the recent briefing to UKS2 parents on smart phones and social media which was delivered by the ICT link governor
- examining the reasons for pupils transferring to other schools to ensure that individual issues are not reflective of any wider concerns amongst the school community
- examining the teaching of British Values and how they are promoted to pupils, ensuring that they understand how these link with Barton's Christian values
- examining the Behaviour Policy, noting the changes to reflect the latest updates
- reviewing reports of governor visits, ensuring that they are efficient and effective and driving school improvement

- receiving reports on governor training and ensuring that governors are aware of the courses provided by different organisations and are able to access training that meets their needs

### **Report from the Standards Committee**



*Louise Bowes is Chair of the Standards Committee.  
Louise is a Foundation Governor.*

This term in their Standards Committee meetings the governors have raised standards by:

- examining the data relating to progress and attainment to ensure that support is in place to enable pupils to achieve their potential
- discussing TA provision to identify potential for redeployment to provide additional support to pupils who are working below age-related expectations
- welcoming the data relating to Y6 pupils and the measures that are being put in place to support their needs and emotional wellbeing during SATs
- examining data relating to vulnerable pupils and planning for link governors to meet with the Headteacher to explore the data in more detail and review progress against equality objectives
- discussing CPD for staff and governors, welcoming the opportunities that are in place to update staff's knowledge and identifying the importance of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training for governors
- discussing the importance of punctuality and attendance, welcoming recent improvements

but recognising that additional support may be necessary for some families

- discussing pupils' emotional wellbeing and the strategies put in place to enable staff to recognise mental health issues at an early stage and provide support to pupils most in need
- welcoming the proposed class structure for 2025-26, noting the impact that the fifth class has had on pupils' learning as shown by the data on progress and attainment

### **Report from the Resources Committee**



*Andy Higgins is Chair of the Resources Committee.  
Andy is a Parent Governor.*

This term in their Resources Committee meetings the governors have raised standards by:

- completing and approving the Schools Financial Value Standard return to provide assurance that we are achieving a good level of financial health and resource management
- conducting spot checks on a random sample of financial transactions to ensure processes are robust and being observed
- benchmarking outgoings to ensure spending is in line with similar schools
- scrutinising contract renewals to ensure best value
- reviewing the budget to ensure that school is utilising its limited resources in the most efficient

manner possible, so that staffing levels, the curriculum, and the school environment provide the highest quality education to pupils

- promoting succession planning and training to ensure that staff are given opportunities for professional growth and development
- discussing premises and resource allocation, prioritising budget to ensure that the school remains safe, warm, and dry
- reviewing policies to ensure compliance with the latest legislation and to provide the necessary framework for the smooth operation of the school
- providing support and oversight during the school's transition to new IT systems

### **Governor Vacancies**

We are seeking to appoint three Foundation Governors to our Governing Body. Governors play a vital part in setting the vision and strategic direction for the school, and a key role in ensuring financial and educational accountability. Foundation Governors have a further responsibility in promoting the school's religious character and are an active link between the Church and school.

If you are interested in becoming a governor at Barton, please contact Caroline Parsons at [chair@barton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@barton.cambs.sch.uk)