



Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School

Governors' Newsletter

Issue 31: Summer 2025

We are delighted with the outcomes of our long-awaited Ofsted and SIAMS inspections which took place in quick succession at the start of the Summer Term. The strong staff team were well-prepared for the visits and we are proud of how staff, governors, pupils and parents came together to show the inspectors what a wonderful school we have in Barton.

Governors are also delighted to celebrate the success of our Year 6 cohort in their Key Stage 2 SATS (Standard Assessment Tests). This group has made fantastic progress over the last year and we congratulate the pupils, families, the Owl Class Team and all staff and community who have contributed to their school journey. We send you all best wishes for your transition to secondary school, Year 6!

Thanks to an extremely successful year of FOBS fund-raising and generous personal donations, we have been able to support a fifth class for a second year, in 2025-26. The smaller class sizes this year have been hugely beneficial to pupils and staff alike, so we are extremely grateful to the community who have enabled us to maintain this structure for a further year.

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 or 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:

- Reflecting on the Ofsted and SIAMS inspections, welcoming the positive feedback from inspectors, the dedication from staff, support from parents, and the role that

pupils played in speaking to inspectors.

- Continuing to monitor the wellbeing of the Headteacher, staff and pupils.
- Welcoming positive feedback concerning safeguarding from the Ofsted inspection and Local Authority Safeguarding Audit and ensuring that safeguarding remains a priority at all times.
- Approving the Budget for 2025/26 as recommended by the Resources Committee.
- Celebrating the success of pupils over 2024/25, in particular recognising the excellent levels of attainment in EYFS, the Y1 phonics results and the Y6 SATs results, which are a testament to the

excellent teaching that pupils receive in school.

- Reviewing the composition of the governing body and identified strategies to attempt to fill vacancies and ensure that there are a mix of skills, experience and diversity within the group.
- Analysing progress against the objectives in the Operational Plan and Strategic Plan, acknowledging the successes and identifying the priorities to be addressed in the next academic year.
- Examining and actioning recommendations from governor monitoring visits and analysing their strategic impact to ensure that they are beneficial in driving school improvement.
- Examining the data from the staff, parent and pupil consultations and discussing collective themes to ensure that stakeholder views are incorporated into future plans for school improvement.
- Reviewing progress against the Equality Objectives to ensure that Barton is an inclusive school with measures in place to support vulnerable groups and pupils with additional social and emotional needs.
- Reviewing the findings from the recent Safeguarding Audit, approving the move to an electronic reporting system and agreeing to introduce briefing sessions for parents on online safety, mobile phones and social media.

Report from the Standards Committee



Louise Bowes was Chair of the Standards Committee before stepping down from the position on taking up a TA role at school. A new Chair of the Standards Committee will be appointed in September 2025. Louise remains a Foundation Governor.

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

- Examining the data relating to pupil progress and attainment with a particular focus on Y2/Y3 to ensure that TA support is in place next year to help pupils to achieve their potential.
- Discussing CPD for governors, acknowledging the importance of filling gaps in skills and knowledge that will be created when the Chair of Governors leaves at the end of term.
- Discussing data on attendance and lateness and steps that have been taken to improve these, welcoming improvements but recognising that additional support may be necessary for some families.

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:

- Examining and interrogating the draft school Budget for 2025/26 to ensure that school is fully staffed and resourced to meet the needs of all pupils and provide a high-level, quality learning experience.
- Discussing music provision and its funding within UKS2 to ensure that pupils experience high quality music tuition, continue to benefit from learning a musical instrument as part of an ensemble and to meet the requirements of the curriculum.
- Examining Sports Premium expenditure and approving repairs to outdoor fitness equipment and improvements to swimming pool facilities to ensure that best value is obtained whilst improving pupils' levels of activity.
- Examining and adopting the County Council's updated Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools to ensure that expenditure is carefully managed in accordance with government guidance.
- Reviewing personnel policies to ensure compliance with legislation and best practice in dealing with human resources issues.
- Discussing the Pathway to Net Zero Project and examining the

first draft of the Climate Action Plan.

- Approving applications to the Diocese for Schools Condition Allowance to support various large-scale premises projects.

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 the Chair of Governors at **chair@barton.cambs.sch.uk**.