



Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School

Governors' Newsletter

Issue 32: Autumn 2025

Governors are pleased to welcome many new families to the school this term. We are delighted that Barton remains a school of choice in the area, enabling us to grow and thrive. We look forward to meeting and working with you all.

We are also pleased to continue the year with our fantastic, stable staff team, providing continuity of focus on our school improvement objectives. Primarily, this year will have a significant focus on pupils' writing. Governors are working with staff to shine a spotlight on this improvement objective, with a number of updates and initiatives underway. We look forward to being able to report more on successful outcomes later in the year.

The Governing Body has restructured this year, absorbing the work of the Standards Committee (curriculum and pupil progress and attainment) into the Full Governing Body to reduce the number of meetings required. We have also established a new system of joint Co-Chairs to allow all governors to experience the role and to lessen the workload with a supportive, shared role. Finally we have welcomed three new Governors this term: Michelle Michaelides, Amy Goymour and Sally Daggianti, and Marie Collier has joined us as an Associate Member.

Finally, we are looking ahead to the Spring Term and our Head Teacher recruitment process. The whole school community will be sorry to see Julie Martin step down from her role, but we wish her well and will be working with the Local Authority, Diocese and all stakeholders in selecting a replacement to build on Julie's many successes and take the school forward.

The governors welcome comments about what we do and what we could be doing better. If you would like to contact us, please email the Co-Chairs of Governors or Clerk to the Governing Body on: chair@barton.cambs.sch.uk or clerk@barton.cambs.sch.uk

Report from Full Governing Body (FGB)



Caroline Parsons and Katie Norman are Co-Chairs of Governors. Caroline is a Co-Opted Governor. And Katie is a Parent Governor.

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

- Reviewing the draft Yearly Operational Plan ahead of teacher scrutiny of the document to ensure that all parties are working towards an agreed set of priorities
- Allocating Governor roles and planning for Governor monitoring of key curriculum and strategic areas
- Focusing on succession planning with the appointment of new governors to ensure continued effective and sustainable governance and a new system of Co-Chairs

- Monitoring the wellbeing of the Headteacher, staff and pupils and reviewing support for pupils to ensure that it is effective and tailored to individual needs
- Agreeing to focus on writing in order to address action points from the Ofsted inspection and ensure this key area of pupil development improves consistently
- Highlighting upcoming training courses available from the School Governance Team, the Diocese of Ely and NGA, to ensure that all governors are supported with the skills, knowledge and experience required to perform their roles effectively
- Planning for Headteacher recruitment, appointing interview panel and delegating responsibilities, agreeing to buy in Local Authority support package
- Discussing SEND and safeguarding issues affecting the school currently to ensure support is in place for pupils and staff
- Scrutinising pupil data to monitor standards and school improvement priorities
- Reviewing attendance and lateness data, celebrating success and receiving reports on measures to address anomalies
- Reviewing staff appraisal targets to ensure they are SMART and flow from improvement priorities
- Reviewing and approving new equalities objectives to ensure the school is proactive in ensuring equality between identified groups
- Considering the responses to the whole board and individual governor skills audits governor audit to address gaps in governor skills and experience and ensure the board is working effectively

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:

- Carefully monitoring the budget to ensure that best value is obtained in all areas and that finances can continue to be stable in years to come
- Reviewing policies and contracts to ensure compliance with legislation and best practice
- Discussing funding of music provision within school to ensure that pupils experience high quality music tuition and continue to benefit from learning a musical instrument
- Reviewing ongoing premises issues to ensure the school premises are safe, warm and dry
- Considering the financial statements to ensure that they accurately reflected financial management for 2024/25 and that they provide a suitable framework to enable governors to carry out their duties
- Receiving updates on premises priorities and deciding how to allocate different funding streams to ensure best use of available resources