



Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School

Governors' Newsletter

Issue 28: Summer 2024

Governors are 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 school staff and community who have contributed to their school journey. We send you all best wishes for your transition to secondary school, Year 6!

This term, governors have completed our annual cycle of monitoring, focused on specific priorities from the Three-Year Strategic Plan. This has included meetings with staff, examination of books and data, joining pupils in lessons, walks around the school site and multiple opportunities to speak directly to pupils to gather their views on their educational experience. These visits provide extensive evidence with which we can triangulate reports from governor meetings and raw progress and attainment data, and then work together with school leaders to plan, adjust, and look ahead to constantly improve the work of the school.

This year we have welcomed many new families to the school community and are delighted that Barton continues to be a growing school of choice. Governors have looked in great detail at pupil numbers and cohort sizes for future academic years, and plans are in place to manage our class sizes over the coming years to ensure the best possible educational provision and environment for our pupils and staff.

Finally, we are sad to inform you that our two longest-serving governors, Cathy Martin and Anne Ugur, will be stepping down from the Governing Body this summer. Between them, Cathy and Anne have decades of experience on Barton's Governing Body and their wisdom, experience and commitment will be hugely missed. Thank you, Cathy and Anne, for your selfless dedication to Barton and our pupils and community.

The governors welcome comments about what we do and what we could be doing better. If you would like to contact us, please do so through the school office or 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:

- examining the class structure and pupil numbers for next year and subsequent years, taking various steps to manage class sizes to ensure that education experience is optimised for all pupils
- approving the budget for 2024/25 as recommended by the Resources

Committee to ensure that school is fully staffed and resourced to meet the needs of all pupils and provide a high-level, quality learning experience

- continuing to monitor the wellbeing of the Headteacher, staff and pupils to ensure that the support that is provided is effective and tailored to individual needs
- continuing to monitor the school's position with regard to academisation, planning steps to learn from the experience of other CB23 schools
- preparing for the anticipated SIAMS inspection in 2024/25 to ensure the school is in the best position to demonstrate our strengths on inspection day
- celebrating the success of pupils over 2023/24, in particular recognising the significant progress and attainment for Y6, reflected in the excellent SATs results
- analysing progress against the objectives in the Yearly Operational Plan and Strategic Plan, acknowledging the successes and identifying the priorities to be addressed in the next academic year
- examining the recommendations from governor monitoring visits and analysing their strategic impact
- examining the responses to the staff, parent and pupil consultations, discussing collective themes arising from the consultations to ensure that all stakeholder views are incorporated into future plans for school improvement
- reviewing progress against the Equality Objectives to ensure that Barton is an inclusive school
- reviewing the composition of the governing body and looking at succession planning in order to fill

current and future vacancies and ensure that there are a mix of skills, experience and diversity within the group

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:

- interrogating the data relating to attainment and progress for this academic year to ensure that pupils are receiving high quality teaching and that strategies are in place to meet the needs of lower achievers moving forward
- satisfying themselves that despite the challenges of moving to a five-class structure, that this is in the best interest of the pupils and will help to tackle some of the issues highlighted by the data relating to pupil progress and attainment.
- discussing the impact of the Little Wandle phonics programme to ensure that it is a successful tool to improve reading and phonics skills
- examining the support in place for new staff to ensure their smooth induction to Barton School, including preparation to take on subject leadership roles where appropriate
- identifying the strategic priorities in teaching and learning for 2024/25 to ensure that measures are in place to drive the school forward
- reviewing the Online Safety Policy and recent training on Cyber

Security to ensure that measures are in place to keep children safe online

- ensuring that opportunities are in place for pupils to give feedback on their school experience which will help to inform school improvement measures
- welcoming the strategies introduced to improve Reading which are in line with the recommendations from the Reading Framework and will help to feed into improvements in pupils' Writing

Report from the Resources Committee



*Cathy Martin is Chair of the Resources Committee and Vice-Chair of Governors.
Cathy is a Foundation Governor.*

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

- interrogating and approving the budget for 2024/25 to ensure that Barton is allocating its resources in the most effective way possible to ensure that staffing levels, the curriculum and school environment provide the best possible education to pupils, within the significant funding limitations we are experiencing
- discussing the pressure on pupil places and the implications for class structure and staffing to ensure that all avenues are explored to provide the best teaching and learning outcomes for pupils as well as to support staff wellbeing

- discussing the financial implications of moving to a five-class structure and the additional challenges that this will represent in terms of balancing the budget for 2024/25
- welcoming the appointment of new Class Teachers for September and acknowledging the training and support that has been provided to staff who are leaving which has enabled them to gain knowledge and expertise to develop their careers
- reviewing the Five-Year Premises Plan to ensure that priorities are being addressed, and that opportunities are taken to upgrade and improve facilities to save energy and reduce school's carbon footprint
- reviewing policies to ensure that they comply with the latest legislation and provide the necessary framework for school operations
- welcoming the comprehensive training programme for TAs and the importance placed on CPD for all staff to ensure that they are well skilled to benefit pupils' education and pastoral support within school

Governor Vacancies

We are seeking to appoint four 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.