



Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School

Governors' Newsletter

Issue 24: Spring 2023

This term, governors have continued with our programme of monitoring. We are focusing on specific priorities from the Three-Year Strategic Plan, for example cross-curricular writing, allocation of resources and the ongoing priorities of safeguarding and support of our pupils with additional needs. Plans are in place to complete the monitoring cycle during the summer term, with multiple opportunities to gather pupil voice on the issues in focus. These will offer fantastic opportunities to hear directly from our pupils about their school experience, bringing an invaluable insight and contribution to our strategic development.

Work on developing and improving our new in-house lunch provision continues, with pupil input being collected over the last term to add to the parent survey responses. We continue to aim to provide a lunch for as many children as possible whilst meeting nutritional standards and running a financially sustainable service and will keep families updated as the provision develops, and we navigate the budget pressures of the provision.

Finally, at this time of year, governors are involved in setting the budget for the new financial year, against a background of ever-increasing financial pressure on schools and especially small schools. We therefore continue to be grateful for the support we receive from our families and the wider community, both practically and financially. Our thanks go to FOBS for their constant support and to the families who recently came to school over the weekend to paint, garden and "spruce up" the school environment. We ask that you continue to consider how you can support the school and welcome your ideas over the coming year.

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:

- reviewing statutory and non-statutory policies to ensure that they are up to date, relevant, fit for purpose and meet statutory requirements
- discussing the recent governor visits to monitor curriculum areas, safeguarding and use and management of resources, focusing on recommended actions

to further the school's strategic priorities

- continuing to support the library project to ensure that reading is given a high priority in school, that pupils are engaged and enthused by the resources, and that standards in reading continue to improve
- ensuring that due diligence is applied in respect of awarding contracts to providers such as The ICT Service, to meet financial obligations and demonstrate value for money and best use of resources
- continuing to discuss and keep abreast of academisation issues
- welcoming the continued interest in our school from prospective families, ensuring that the pupil roll is maintained at a high level whilst balancing capacity and quality of provision
- welcoming the high attendance figures which exceed the national average and demonstrate that issues around attendance are handled sensitively, and support provided to families where appropriate
- discussing issues relating to eSafety to ensure that effective filtering and monitoring systems are in place to safeguard pupils within school
- reviewing the most effective ways of consulting with parents and pupils to ensure that stakeholder voices are heard and included in future planning
- agreed to create a Church School Covenant to formally record the ambitions, values and commitments which are shared between the school and the parish
- welcoming the continued
- agreeing to establish a sub-group to work on the SIAMS Self Evaluation Form prepared by the senior leadership team in

anticipation of our impending SIAMS inspection

- acknowledging fundraising carried out by FOBS to support school initiatives and help to provide resources to benefit pupils' learning
- welcoming the support from parents in volunteering to help to "spruce up" the school and improve the learning environment for pupils

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 in Y1-Y6 to ensure that interventions are in place to support pupils to achieve their potential
- examining the data relating to EYFS pupils to ensure that they are settling in well to school, and that any additional needs are identified early so that appropriate support can be provided
- discussing the strategies in place to prepare Y6 pupils for their SATs, including targeted 1:1 support for pupils who are on the cusp of ARE to help build their knowledge and confidence
- welcoming the impact of the Little Wandle phonics scheme and the positive outcomes in improving pupils' phonics, reading and comprehension skills

- acknowledging the importance of regular pupil voice, ensuring that opportunities are provided for pupils to be consulted regularly as part of our governing monitoring visit
- discussing concerns relating to lateness to ensure that families are aware of the importance of punctuality, the impact of lost minutes of learning

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:

- evaluating how the careful management of the budget in 2023/24 has enabled the school to preserve a carry-forward under challenging circumstances, which can in turn be used to lessen the impact of the likely future in-year deficit in 2024/25
- examining how the 2024/25 budget can be used to ensure that Barton is allocating its limited resources in the most effective way possible so that staffing levels, the curriculum and the school environment provide the best education to pupils
- discussing the recent staff resignations and the forthcoming recruitment, and how to ensure that staffing expenditure provides the best employees to continue providing excellent teaching so

that pupils continue to benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum

- reviewing the 5-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
- discussing the ongoing premises issues and allocation of resources, and agreeing to prioritise requirements following the meeting with the school's Property Manager to ensure that school continues to provide a structurally safe environment
- reviewing policies to ensure that they comply with the latest legislation and provide the necessary framework so that school runs smoothly
- 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 a Local Authority Governor and a Foundation Governor. Both governor roles 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.