



Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School

Governors' Newsletter

Issue 24: Spring 2023

This term governors have undertaken a number of visits focused on the many valuable enrichment and training opportunities that have taken place in and out of school. For example, we have joined pupils in visits from authors Pippa Goodhart and Catherine Barr, in a Victorian Seaside Day in support of the history curriculum, and on a trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park to reinforce learning in a rainforests topic. Governors have also listened to pupil voice about Owl Class's Mini Medics training and January's trip to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices concert. Finally, governors have listened to feedback from staff on a number of training and other opportunities made available to them this term in support of pupils' and their own wellbeing. These were invaluable opportunities to witness and hear about how the curriculum is enriched and brought to life, seeing first-hand the impact on pupils' learning and enjoyment, and on the wellbeing of the whole school community.

Barton's whole-school Courageous Advocacy project has continued this term. Courageous Advocacy is a concept within the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) Inspection Schedule, which aims to equip children with the skills, confidence and opportunity to take action on issues of social justice. Science, geography and writing units this term have focused on rainforests, trees, the Amazon and climate change, and the term ends with the tree planting ceremony and a special assembly. This has involved different members of the school and wider village community, focusing on caring for the environment and on pupils' chosen charity, East Anglia's Children's Hospices.

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:

- planning and examining the new proposed Three-Year Strategic Plan to ensure that there is a clear direction for school, and planning

consultations with stakeholders (staff, parents, pupils) to ensure that all members of our community have the opportunity to contribute towards the future direction of the school

- considering proposals for the school library, including how to fund the project which will provide opportunities for pupils to develop their love of and interest in reading
- reviewing possible class structures for the next academic year, bearing in mind the size of each cohort and the impact on future class sizes, to ensure that all pupils have access to excellent

curriculum provision and resources

- reviewing the outcomes of the recent governor visits including governors' suggestions for "next steps", analysing the impact of enrichment activities and training on pupils' learning and the wellbeing of the school community
- discussing the school's vision and values in the context of the introduction of the new SIAMS schedule and the courageous advocacy project to ensure that they remain relevant and reflective of school's ethos
- reviewing policies including the new Behaviour and Physical Intervention policies, to ensure that high expectations are set across school, and that where there are instances of poor behaviour, these are addressed fairly, consistently and in line with the recent STEPS training and principles of restorative justice

Report from the Resources Committee



Ross Stewart is Chair of the Resources Committee. Ross is a Parent Governor.

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

- examining the budget 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
- looking at the projected financial position for 2023-24 and beyond to understand the challenges

ahead and be mindful of savings that will have to be made

- looking ahead to class structures and staffing levels for 2023-24 to ensure the best allocation of resources for pupils' learning and development
- discussing contracts which are due for renewal to ensure that they provide best value
- reviewing the staff training plan to ensure that it addresses existing needs and will also develop staff for the future
- discussing the money available from the Recovery Premium and Tutoring Grant to ensure that resources are targeted at the appropriate groups

Report from the Standards Committee



Cathy Martin is Chair of the Standards Committee and Vice-Chair of Governors. Cathy 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 all pupils, including those in vulnerable groups, are making good progress and working towards Age Related Expectations
- ensuring that tutoring interventions are structured and planned to plug identified gaps in learning
- discussing the focus of courageous advocacy for the annual pupil consultation to ensure that pupil voice is heard, that their response to wider issues is reflected in the curriculum, and that pupils are able

to take responsibility and ownership for their impact on the environment

- reviewing Safeguarding and Health & Safety with a particular focus on the training received to support pupil behaviour and wellbeing
- reviewing staff wellbeing to ensure that support is in place to help teachers positively impact pupils' learning
- deciding how the support offered by the Local Authority and Ely Diocesan Board of Education can be best utilised to benefit pupils' education
- agreeing a programme of governor monitoring visits for the Spring term to determine how enrichment activities and external support add value to the curriculum

Foundation Governor – Vacancies

We are seeking to appoint two Foundation Governors. In addition to playing 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 able to offer this and are interested in becoming a governor at Barton, please contact Caroline Parsons at chair@barton.cambs.sch.uk