



Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School

Governors' Newsletter

Issue 23: Autumn 2022

This term we have welcomed a number of new staff, both teachers and teaching assistants, to our school community. Existing staff members created comprehensive induction packages to ensure a smooth transition, meaning that the new staff were very quickly and effectively integrated into school life. The change in teaching staff has necessitated adjustments to subject leadership roles and governor/teacher subject link partnerships. The governors have allowed staff time to settle into their new positions, and then in the latter part of this term, re-commenced our annual cycle of monitoring, meeting with teachers to review the different Subject Action Plans and plan the next steps for curriculum monitoring. This was also an invaluable opportunity to make introductions to new staff and governors and cement existing relationships.

This autumn has seen the introduction of Barton's whole-school Courageous Advocacy project. 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. Barton's Courageous Advocacy project, planned over a two-year period, focuses on environmental responsibility in the context of paper. The initiative aims to change the school's relationship with paper through ideas generated by pupils in response to their learning about paper manufacturing, usage and environmental impact. Governors are excited to follow the progress of the project and pupils' responses to the challenge.

Finally, Governors have supported the school this term in local authority audits of Health and Safety and Safeguarding. We are pleased to report that the school received excellent feedback from both audits. Governors praise the senior leadership team and office staff for their work during the audit preparation. The results reflect the culture of safeguarding which is embedded at Barton, with the safety and health of pupils and the school community given paramount importance in all we do.

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:

- establishing new subject link governor/teacher partnerships to ensure effective communication, to build strong links with staff and to facilitate governor monitoring of curriculum development and delivery

- opening discussions and consideration of academisation in light of the government's education White Paper and Schools Bill
- discussing succession planning and the balance of governing body membership to ensure that all stakeholders are represented
- commencing the cycle of curriculum monitoring, meeting with subject leads to discuss Subject Action Plans and next steps for curriculum development
- welcoming the results of the Health and Safety and Safeguarding audits, confirming that recommended actions are implemented to ensure that school remains a safe place where safeguarding is paramount
- analysing the results of whole-board and individual skills audits to ensure that appropriate skills are in place to fulfil governors' legal responsibilities.
- agreeing new Equality Objectives, actions to address those objectives and success criteria, to ensure that targeted groups have equal access to educational opportunities and that mental health and wellbeing is prioritised for all

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:

- reviewing the premises budget, prioritising health and safety to

ensure that school is safe, warm and dry

- reviewing whole school pay, personnel policies and staffing structure within school to ensure sustained resourcing that supports children of all needs and abilities and optimally utilises tutor-led funding to achieve the best outcomes possible
- reviewing financial statements to ensure that they are up-to-date and relevant for the current academic year and that they provide a suitable framework to enable governors to carry out their duties
- agreeing to support proposed local traffic orders aimed at calming traffic in the immediate school area, creating a safer environment for staff, pupils and families
- examining contracts for broadband and utilities to ensure best value upon renewal, while sustaining critical services

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:

- ensuring that school is complying with its statutory requirements to teach the National Curriculum and that pupils are provided with a rounded, well-balanced curriculum including opportunities for enrichment
- examining the latest data relating to progress and

attainment for all pupils, including vulnerable groups, to ensure that targeted interventions are in place to meet pupils' learning needs

- considering safeguarding issues in relation to attendance and lateness so that pupils' welfare is accounted for at all times and that lost learning time is minimised
- maintaining training for governors and staff so that they are equipped with the relevant skills and knowledge for their roles
- considering plans for the annual pupil consultation to gather the views of pupils; providing them with the opportunity to impact positively on their school experience
- considering what the school could provide to parents to complement the learning in school and extend pupils' education to outside the classroom environment
- identifying areas of improvement to the school website to ensure that existing and prospective families are provided with the most up-to-date information and that the website correctly reflects current policies and practice
- recognising that the new induction package for staff has enabled new members to become effective parts of the team at Barton very quickly
- creating opportunities for staff to have access to expert guidance in curriculum areas to create a clear direction and enhanced provision to improve pupils' progress and attainment

Foundation Governor – Vacancies

We are seeking to appoint a Foundation Governor. 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