



Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School

Governors' Newsletter

Issue 22: Summer 2022

This term, governors were delighted to celebrate the success of our Year 6 pupils in their Key Stage 2 SATs (Standard Assessment Tests). Due to COVID interruption, this was the first year that the formal tests have taken place since 2019 and Barton pupils' results were significantly above the national average, which indicated a drop in attainment on the national scale. We are extremely proud of our pupils and congratulate them on their hard work, along with the Owl Class team and all staff and members of the school community who have contributed to the success of this cohort throughout their time at Barton.

Governors have continued to develop our subject link roles this term, completing a cycle of monitoring to triangulate reports and data from governors' meetings with classroom observations and pupil voice. Governors have all had the opportunity to join one or more classes to experience lessons in their link subjects from the pupils' point of view. We have also met with pupils from across the school to discuss their learning and progress, before meeting again with staff to review the various subject action plans and discuss "next steps" for continued curriculum development next year. Governors have found these meetings and visits invaluable in developing relationships with staff after having to govern at a distance during COVID restrictions, and in deepening our knowledge of the curriculum subjects and how they are delivered. Our subject link roles will continue next year as our new staff members take on subject leadership roles.

We have recently been notified that Barton is in fact not scheduled for SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) next academic year. However the school is now well-placed to meet the requirements of the inspection in 2023/24 due to significant work this year by staff and governors in self-evaluation against the new inspection schedule.

Finally, governors have assisted the senior leadership team in recruiting a number of new staff for the coming academic year. We are delighted with the appointments made and look forward to working closely with the new team. Governors wish those staff members who are leaving us this week all the best as they take the next steps in their careers and thank them for all of their hard work and contribution to the life and community of Barton over their time with us.

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 Parent Governor.*

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

- completing a cycle of subject link governor visits in our monitoring of curriculum development
- welcoming the successful recruitment of new staff and proposed leadership structure for the coming academic year
- prioritising safeguarding within school, reviewing the outcomes of safeguarding monitoring and in the context of nearby planning applications
- undertaking consultations with staff, parents and pupils and analysing the results to ensure the voices of school stakeholders are heard
- discussing how to facilitate the wind band programme within school, to ensure that it remains viable as part of the curriculum delivery of music in Upper Key Stage 2
- welcoming the introduction of a new phonics scheme, the work that has been done to reorganise and update the library and plans to add further texts and titles to enrich our cultural offering
- looking ahead to legislative changes around academisation, ensuring governors are informed of the issues in anticipation of future discussions and decision-making
- analysing and celebrating the success of our equality objectives and agreeing a set of new

objectives for the next three-year period

Report from the Resources Committee



*Peter Foreman is Chair of the Resources Committee.
Peter is a Foundation Governor.*

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

- reviewing finances in detail and approving the budget for 2022/23 to ensure school's financial security over the coming year
- examining the funding streams which support pupils with COVID recovery and tutoring
- reviewing the staffing plan for September and acknowledging the training and induction provided by current staff in support of their new colleagues
- approving the renewal of contracts to enrich the curriculum and provide essential support with administration, advice and guidance.
- reviewing premises needs to ensure that the buildings are safe, secure, warm and dry, and that school can operate effectively
- agreeing to replace essential infrastructure such as new server, and welcoming the donation from FOBS which will enable the school to purchase another Promethean interactive board
- approving the interior redecoration and refurbishment works to be carried out during the summer to improve the learning environment
- comparing the school's financial management standards against the recent County Council audit to

ensure compliance with best-practice procedures

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:

- analysing the data relating to progress and attainment for all year groups to identify those particular cohorts needing additional support
- prioritising staff wellbeing by ensuring that plans and policies are in place to create more opportunities for planning, preparation and peer support
- considering the comments from the pupil consultation to ensure that pupils are involved in evaluating and progressing their own learning
- recognising the benefit that educational visits have offered pupils both in terms of enriching pupils' experiences, and gaining life skills
- welcoming the recent staff training to ensure that interventions are well-resourced and support is tailored to pupils' needs
- evaluating the successful completion of the school development plans for this year and determining the priorities for the next year to ensure that the school continues to develop and move forward
- supporting the measures that are in place for the handover and induction of new staff to ensure that there is a smooth transition in September
- reviewing the school website so that it continues to provide a good window

into school life for prospective pupils and staff, as well as a valuable communication tool for teachers and pupils

Foundation Governor – Vacancies

We are seeking to appoint one 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