



## Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School

### Governors' Newsletter

Issue 21: Spring 2022

This term, governors have continued developing the new subject link governor roles, meeting with staff to discuss the newly-developed curriculum statements, progression plans and subject action plans. During the pandemic, governor monitoring was carried out remotely with fewer in-person visits to school, so it has been invaluable to be back in school and meeting with staff, reaffirming relationships for the benefit of pupils, staff and governors alike. Plans are underway for the next phase of curriculum monitoring, meeting with individual pupils to gather "pupil voice" on their experiences at Barton Primary.

Governors have been delighted to see the progress of the ongoing library review, building in part on responses to last year's pupil consultation. The contents of the library have been refreshed and reorganised, with careful consideration given to the purchase of new books to support specific topic and curriculum areas. A new display area for books has been created in the school entrance, allowing for a rotating display of books and recommendations to inspire readers. Further work is planned to build on the collection and to make it even more accessible and inspiring for pupils.

Along with staff, governors have been preparing for our anticipated SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) church school inspection next school year, focusing on Barton's vision and ethos and our Christian distinctiveness.

Finally, in line with the National Governance Association's drive to promote and improve schools' environmental sustainability, we have recently appointed a governor with responsibility for championing environmental sustainability in the governing body's work.

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](mailto:chair@barton.cambs.sch.uk) or [clerk@barton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto: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:

- planning for meetings between staff and pairs of subject link governors
- subsequently reviewing the subject link meetings and planning the next phase of monitoring involving pupil voice
- ensuring that the safeguarding of pupils and the wellbeing of pupils, staff and the Headteacher are given the highest priority
- considering pupil numbers and prospective class sizes for the next academic year to ensure the effective deployment of staff, resources and teaching and learning spaces

- planning the format of pupil and parent consultations to provide helpful information to benefit pupils' and parents' experience in the transition to post-pandemic school life
- reviewing policies and procedures to ensure they reflect current practice in school, with particular focus on SEND (special educational needs and disabilities)
- planning a comprehensive review of the school website to make it as user-friendly and informative as possible, within budget constraints
- assessing the school's uniform policy for reasonableness and value for money in line with government guidance
- appointing a governor with responsibility for championing environmental sustainability

### 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:

- closely monitoring school income and expenditure in order to prepare, as well as is possible, for 2022/23 and subsequent years
- producing a prioritised list of premises repairs and items of essential equipment in need of replacement to ensure that the requisite funds are available so that the school is safe, secure, warm and dry for pupils, staff and visitors and can continue to operate efficiently and effectively in all areas

- examining the proposed budget allocations to support curriculum resources, the new phonics scheme and staff training courses
- considering the allocation of staff and resources, including teaching space, for the next school year to ensure that the needs of all pupils are met
- reviewing the contracts and performance of a number of service providers, whose contracts are due for renewal, to ensure effective service and value for money
- reviewing policies covering personnel, operational and safety procedures to ensure that the school is complying with best practice

### 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 in detail the data relating to pupils' progress, and reviewing the interventions in place for pupil premium, SEND and vulnerable pupils as well as those who have fallen behind during the pandemic
- ensuring that the more able pupils are appropriately challenged in line with the Differentiation Policy
- discussing the review of the library and the government requirements to change to a different Phonics Programme and referring the subsequent budget

implications to the Resources Committee

- exploring possible topics for the annual whole-school pupil consultation to ensure that pupils' views are integrated into their learning experience
- considering the impact of future pupil numbers and class structures, to ensure all pupils are appropriately supported within school
- recognising the value of 'surgery time' for Y6 pupils to help them take ownership of their learning, particularly ahead of the transition to secondary school
- reviewing curriculum-related policies to ensure that they are up-to-date and reflect the needs of the school
- discussing governor training and the use of an in-house session from the Primary Adviser to enhance governor skills for the forthcoming monitoring visits

### **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](mailto:chair@barton.cambs.sch.uk)