



Headteacher Mrs. Lorraine Woollven

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*With kind hearts and determined minds, we inspire each other to be the best we can be.*

## **GOVERNORS ANNUAL STATEMENT 2020/21**

### **Introduction**

Governors play a key role in School life. Our role is strategic – making key decisions that help to take the school forward. Day to day operational decisions rest firmly with the Headteacher and the teaching staff.

The Department for Education defines three core strategic functions of Governors:-

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

This means that we have to know the school really well, so that we can agree on the priorities for action. Although we are always supportive, we also have to be able to challenge things when we think they should be done differently or better. At the heart of all we do are the children. All Governors are committed to securing the very best education for all the children that attend Churchill Primary School, *With kind hearts and determined minds, we inspire each other to be the best we can be.*

### **Governance Arrangements (confirmed by Instrument of Government 1/7/2015)**

The Full Governing Body (FGB) consists of 15 Governors:

4 Elected Parent Governors.

1 Governor appointed by the Local Authority.

2 Staff Governors. (1 elected, 1 the Headteacher.)

3 Foundation Governors, 2 appointed by Diocese of Bath and Wells Board of Education, 1 ex-officio

5 Co-Opted Governors.

During the year there has been the following changes:

- Martin Fletcher resigned as a long standing Foundation Governor on 2/9/20
- Tanya Shirt resigned as Parent Governor on 21/7/21
- Claire Hosgood resigned as long standing Staff Governor on 8/7/21
- Verity White was elected as a Parent Governor from 19/10/20
- Andy Goldhawk was elected as a Parent Governor from 20/11/20
- Claire Hosgood joined as Co-Opted Governor from 8/7/21

The FGB works hard on behalf of all pupils, parents, staff and the local community. Together they offer a wide range of experience and a variety of skills.

The FGB meets every term (six times per year), supported by a Clerk to Governors, who is responsible for advising on legislative and procedural matters, ensuring FGB is effective and efficient as well as fulfilling administrative duties.

To manage the business in hand the FGB has three Committees:

- Finance and Facilities.
- Personnel (and Pay when necessary).
- Curriculum and Standards

An Ethos Committee has also been established, which some of the Governors attend.

### **What were the key issues and challenges faced by Governors in 2020/21 and how were they addressed?**

- *Functioning under Covid restrictions, maintaining a safe environment for the school community, families kept informed by excellent communication.*
  - *Approving, monitoring and scrutinising Covid Risk Assessments, recovery Curriculum, remote learning, use of Catch up Funding, formulating appropriate and impactful interventions to assist pupils.*
  - *Ensuring all children had access to high quality remote learning, maintaining strong school: home links, even when pupils not in school. Feedback very positive from parents; levels of engagement high.*
  - *Ensuring Staff wellbeing in the face of ever changing DfE directives. impacting school operations*
  - *Virtual meetings.*
  - *Starting serious discussions about the need to join a MAT and how to select the right one*
  - *Management structure underpowered for pace of required change to move school forward.*
- Addressed by appointing full time Deputy Head; experienced teacher to lead writing and spelling and increasing hours of SENDCo.*

### **What were the impact of Governor's actions, decisions and interventions in 2020/21?**

- *Good progress made in closing the learning gap between March and July; checked by interrogation of data from assessments; scrutiny of targeted and impactful Catch up Plans.*
- *Supported Staff wellbeing, morale remaining positive despite staff being tired; staff in best place they could be to teach.*
- *School avoided Covid in the main, "no bubbles burst". Comprehensive and detailed Risk Assessment assisting in keeping everyone safe.*
- *All children who needed a place in school during lockdown were offered them, parents trusted school was a safe place; good engagement maintained both online and within key worker groups.*
- *Made sure best class cover possible was in place, to support parental leave request.*
- *Balanced budget.*
- *Greater capacity within SLT to plan, deliver and monitor school improvement.*

### **Governor's priorities 2021-22**

- *Continue to investigate MAT options that fit well with our school ethos and community, aim to progress to a decision to join during 2022.*
- *Health and wellbeing of our staff, particularly our Headteacher, ensuring workload is achievable and sustainable.*
- *Continuing preparations for new Ofsted Framework, including interacting with other local schools who have had successful recent inspections.*
- *Ensure every child, with a focus on those not ARE and closing learning gaps across all age groups, is given every opportunity to reach their full potential, ensuring Catch up Plans continue following periods of lockdown, school closure and remote learning during Covid pandemic.*
- *Ensure SDP is followed with close monitoring and evaluation, Subject Link Gobs for focus.*
- *How school can meet all the needs of all children, already on roll or who may join in the future, being inclusive in the fullest sense, as pupils needs increase in complexity and severity.*

- Support for Kids Club, who have ongoing financial and staffing issues

At the Ofsted Inspection in May 2017, School retained its “good rating”.

The Ofsted report said:

*“The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection. Since your appointment (LW as HT) you have led with determination and rigour. There has been considerable change to leadership, staffing and governance since the previous inspection.”*

Adding specifically about the Governors:

*“Increasingly governors hold the school to account well, for example tracking the impact of additional funding for disadvantaged pupils on improving pupils’ outcomes. They have a secure understanding of the school’s strengths and aspects that require work. Governors do not shy away from asking difficult questions and now challenge school leaders proficiently.”*

At the SIAMS Inspection in March 2018, School was awarded a “Good” rating. The SIAMS report said:

*“The school’s explicit and inclusive Christian values are lived out by the whole school community, regardless of background, promoting strong and respectful relationships. Self-evaluation is a particular strength, leading to a church school that understands its strengths and weaknesses and how it can improve. Good links have been established between the school and the local church resulting in the pupils’ increasing understanding of respect for the Christian faith.”*

Adding specifically about the Governors:

*“Governors monitor collective worship and report on its provision to the full governing body. The governing body is well informed and ensures that the school’s Christian vision motivates all policy and practices which impact on meeting the needs of all learners. The governors have a good understanding of the school’s performance and effectively question senior leaders about the quality of teaching and pupil progress. The governors show determination to maintain the school’s Christian character, by developing strategic plans based on the school’s Christian distinctiveness.”*