

Annual Governance Statement 2020-21

Governors hold an important public office, and in the interests of transparency, their identity and arrangements for governance should be known to the school and the wider community.

The Governing Body

Name	Date of appointment	End of office	Role/type
Tim Fairbairn	13/4/19	12/4/23	Co-opted
Rev Steve Morley	N/A	N/A	Foundation
Adam Kendall	8/7/19	7/7/23	Local Authority
Clare Frewin	19/1/18	18/1/22	Parent
Ruth Slater	N/A	N/A	Headteacher
Vicky Holmes	3/10/18	2/10/22	Associate
Helen Main	4/12/19	3/12/23	Co-opted
Lucy Baker	4/12/19	3/12/23	Staff
Bill Box	1/10/19	30/9/23	Foundation
Leighton Hammett	25/3/20	24/3/24	Parent
Claire Lloyd	2/12/20	1/12/24	Parent
Sam Baker	27/1/21	26/1/25	Co-opted
Nicola Wilby	12/5/21	11/5/25	Co-opted

The Governing Body maintains a skills matrix which demonstrates the diverse skills held by the Governors. This document helps inform any appointments to ensure the Governing Body maintain the skills required to be effective. Current Governor details can be found within the Governor profiles on the website.

During the year we said farewell to Rosie Kelly, Helen Foster and Anna Hills who had all reached the end of their terms of office. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them all for their contribution and commitment to our school. In their places we have been pleased to welcome Claire Lloyd, Sam Baker and Nicola Wilby.

Sadly, at the end of this summer term we shall be saying farewell to Rev. Steve Morley, who is retiring and moving to Somerset. Steve has been an immense asset to our Governing Body, bringing a wealth of experience and gentle consideration to our discussions and thinking. And, of course, he has also been very active in school in support of the RE curriculum and our Christian and spiritual well-being. We wish him and Angela a long and happy retirement.

Clerk to Governors

Laura Bennis continues as our Clerk, a position she has held for a number of years.

Committees

Remits for the Committees of the Governing Body are available on the school website within the Governing Body's Terms of Reference. Some committees and named Governors receive specific training to be able to carry out their functions effectively.

Area of Governance	Named Governors
Training	Tim Fairbairn
Health & Safety	Leighton Hammett
Pupil Premium / Looked After Children	Sam Baker
Special Needs	Clare Frewin
Safeguarding & Online Safety	Helen Main
Finance	Adam Kendall
Reception	Sam Baker
Year 1	Bill Box
Year 2	Clare Frewin
Year 3	Steve Morley
Year 4	Leighton Hammett
Year 5	Claire Lloyd
Year 6	Tim Fairbairn

In normal times, Governors attend school events such as church services, performances, sporting events, or to see children learning in school. Unfortunately, this has not been possible for most of this year due to COVID restrictions, and most monitoring has been managed via Teams.

Meetings

The Governing Body meets twice a term, the Pay Committee twice a year and the Executive Committee once a term. Other committees meet as required.

Attendance

Attendance records for the Governors can be found on the school website.

Training undertaken by Governors

During this academic year, Governors have attended training sessions run by Schools Choice, the National Governance Association and e-learning modules. When considering the skills and training Governors require, particular attention is given to three core strategic functions of the Governing Body:

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

- **Chair's Statement**

Once again, in this academic year, we have encountered a National Lockdown and the need to move the majority of our children into remote learning. The pandemic has touched many of our lives in such drastic ways and given us all so many challenges, but I am proud to say that the whole school community has risen to these challenges.

As a Governing Body we have held most of our meetings and usual business remotely and have become better skilled in this area. Ms. Slater and the staff have worked tirelessly to complete risk assessments and put procedures in place to minimise the risks for all in school. Our wonderful children and their families have also played their part, whether they were children of key workers in school or having to stay home during the Lockdown. I would like to thank everyone for everything they have done to keep learning moving forwards, it has been a great team effort.

As a Governing Body we strive to continue to support the work of the school and the importance of quality first teaching. We have worked together in our strategic role this year:

- To oversee the provision of homeschooling for many pupils and in-school provision for children of key workers
- To ensure pupils enjoy school, feel confident and are able to handle difficult situations as part of the school and wider community
- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; which, with support, we plan to re-focus next year
- To ensure pupil progress is monitored and maximised
- To oversee and approve the school's budget
- To ensure that funding provided for specific purposes is used effectively e.g., Pupil Premium grant, Catch Up grant and PE and Sports grant
- To ensure the staff are supported and their wellbeing is given careful consideration
- To oversee policies which shape the culture of our school and in particular this year the introduction of a revised Behaviour Policy with a clear focus on the positive.

By carrying out our strategic monitoring role, we enable the senior leadership team to focus on the day to day running of the school. Much of our work centres around the school development plan albeit with adaptations this year to respond to and allow for the impacts of Covid.

In line with this, we regularly review our roles and the contribution we have made to the school. We hope to be able to provide more face to face support from September 2021 onwards.

We continue to review policies and procedures to ensure that these are fit for purpose and meet not only our legal responsibilities, but also our vision and aims for the school and our pupils. The children and staff remain at the forefront of our decisions as we endeavour to provide the best educational environment for them.

We continue to closely monitor the school budget. We strive to ensure we have the right staffing levels and resources so that the children's learning and development continues to be of the highest standard.

The school development plan for 21/22 will be approved by the Governing Body in the Autumn term as part of our cycle of continuous school improvement.

For now, Explore / Believe / Shine, and have a great summer break.

Other Documents

Other documents are available from the school website:

- The Governing Body's Terms of Reference
- The Instrument of Government
- Governor profiles, including their Business and Pecuniary Interests

If you have an interest to become a Governor, please do contact Tim Fairbairn, via the School Office.

Tim Fairbairn
Chair of Governors
10th July 2021