

Bollington St John's Church of England Primary School



Where talent grows

The Governing Board's Annual Impact Statement

September 2018 - June 2019

The Governing Board of Bollington St John's Church of England Primary School is a diverse group of volunteers, drawn from a variety of backgrounds. Each of us brings our own experience, skills and perspectives to a shared purpose – ensuring the best quality of education and experience of school life for our pupils.

Our statutory role is in

- defining and upholding a clear, distinctive and robust vision, ethos and strategic direction for the School;
- holding the School's executive leadership to account for the educational performance of the School and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Governing Board as a corporate entity is ultimately accountable and responsible for all decisions made within the School and executive leaders operate within the autonomy, powers and functions delegated to them by Governors.

Each member of the Governing Board is passionate about primary education and committed to the continuous development of the School as a whole and to our own ability and contribution as Governors. As such, we undertake extensive and regular training in all aspects of school governance, from key areas such as the safeguarding of pupils in the School, to those specific to our role on the Governing Board, such as school finance.

The full Governing Board meets at least once each school term. In addition, a number of committees meet to consider different aspects of the school in detail. In order to understand the current challenges, achievements and requirements of the School, Governors will regularly attend school events, undertake classroom visits and 'learning walks' around the School, and carry out consultations with staff, pupils and parents.

The term of office of all governors is 4 years.

Governance Arrangements 2018-2019

Our Governing Body is constituted to include:

- 1 x Headteacher Governor** (ex-officio)
- 1 x Staff Governor** (elected by teaching and support staff employed at the school)
- 2 x Parent Governors** (elected by parents of pupils attending the school)
- 8 x Foundation Governors** (appointed by the Chester Diocesan Board of Education in consultation with the Parochial Church Council of Bollington. Foundation Governors ensure the founding principles and character of the school are upheld)
- 1 x Local Authority Governor** (appointed by the local authority)
- 1 x Co-opted Governor** (appointed by the governors to bring valuable skills and experience to the governing board and/or to represent local community interests)

The Governing Body is constituted to draw upon a wide range of skills and experience to inform, support and challenge the strategic direction of the school. We encourage and welcome a range of opinions and perspectives in considering the best outcomes for the School and our pupils.

During the 2018-2019 school year, the following Governors were in post:

- 1) **Melanie Walker**, Ex-Officio Head Teacher Governor
- 2) **Ellen Watson**, Staff Governor
- 3) **Mike Akerman**, Foundation Governor / Chair of Governors
- 4) **Frances Arnott**, Foundation Governor (Resigned Summer 2019)
- 5) **Canon Veronica Hydon**, Ex-officio Foundation Governor / Joint Vice-Chair of Governors
- 6) **Carl Malia**, Foundation Governor
- 7) **Tess Phillips**, Foundation Governor / Joint Vice-Chair of Governors
- 8) **John Rogers**, Foundation Governor (Appointed Spring 2019)
- 9) **John Whitehead**, Foundation Governor (Appointed Summer 2019)
- 10) **Faye Daley**, Local Authority Governor (Resigned Autumn 2018)
- 11) **Paul Beardmore**, Parent Governor
- 12) **Andrew Selwood**, Parent Governor
- 13) **Jane Woodward**, Co-opted Governor

Where to find Attendance Records and Further Information about our Governors

The attendance records of Governors for our Full Board and Committee meetings was excellent in the school year 2018-2019. Full details of attendance can be found on the school website at www.bollingtonstjohns.co.uk/page/our-governors/17251, together with brief biographical information and minutes of meetings.

Focus and Responsibilities of Governance Committees 2018-2019

Each of our four Governance Committees has a specific focus, and committee members have defined roles and responsibilities to the Governing Board. For example, our ‘Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment Committee’ monitors and interrogates the quality of curriculum and teaching in the school, in the following ways:

- By examining and questioning pupil progress data against a) the published strategy for the school and b) local and national trends
- Observing lessons and carrying out ‘learning walks’ through the school
- Talking to pupils
- Asking questions of staff and considering their reports
- Observing pupil engagement and behaviour in lessons
- Observing pupil/teacher relationships

Governors on the committee are assigned to link with subject lead teachers in the school and they undertake formal training to understand current national and local developments.

In the 2018-2019 school year, our committee structure was as follows:

Committee 1: Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Committee 2: Outcomes for Children and Learners, Achievement and Community

Committee 3: Personal Development, Behaviour and Safety

Committee 4: Effectiveness of Leadership and Management Finance

The following table illustrates the committee structure, roles and responsibilities for the school year 2018-2019:

Committee 1 Chair Frances Arnott	Committee 2 Chair Combined with Committee 1	Committee 3 Chair Mike Akerman	Committee 4 Chair Veronica Hydon
Members Ellen Watson Tess Phillips Frances Arnott Paul Beardmore Melanie Walker	Members Ellen Watson Frances Arnott Jane Woodward Melanie Walker John Rogers	Members Mike Akerman Jane Woodward Carl Mallia Melanie Walker	Members Veronica Hydon Mike Akerman Andrew Selwood Melanie Walker
School Development Plan and SEF Links			

Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment Curriculum Committee	Outcomes for Children and Learners Achievement and Community Committee	Personal Development, Behaviour and Safety Behaviour and Safety Committee	Effectiveness of Leadership and Management Finance Committee
RE Curriculum Curriculum Curriculum policies Mastery EYFS Diversity and British/Global Values Assessment and targets (class) Whole school assessment Extra curriculum Sport ICT Looked After Children Worship	Church links Progress/Tracking FFT/ASP Pupil Premium Special Educational Needs/Catch up strategies Vulnerable groups and G&T Communication/community Sustainable schools/Partnerships Sex Education Home school agreement School Council Ethos group Governor's training	Ethos, spiritual wellbeing SMSC Safeguarding including Prevent Child Protection E-safety Attendance Behaviour Health & Safety (risk assessments including external visits) Buildings/lettings School meals and healthy lifestyles GDPR	Church school leadership SEF FDP SIAMS Admissions/Term dates Senior Leadership Team Staff CPD/Middle leaders Head's PM Budget Pay Personnel issues/ Staff recruitment Disciplinary
Staff / Governor Responsibilities	Staff / Governor Responsibilities	Staff / Governor Responsibilities	Staff / Governor Responsibilities
Literacy – Lauren Stout/Mike Akerman Maths - Ellen Watson/Carl Mallia RE – Melanie Walker/Tess Phillips Phonics and IPC – Lucy Jobbins/Tess Phillips Science – Daniel Timmis/Tess Phillips EYFS – Lucy Jobbins/Veronica Hydon Sport – Dan Timmis/Frances Arnott Looked After Children – Melanie Walker/Jane Woodward GDPR – Melanie Walker/Paul Beardmore Global - Ellen Watson/Carl Mallia	Pupil Premium – Rosie Hemmings/ Jane Woodward SEN – Rosie Hemmings/Jane Woodward Mental health and well-being – Rosie Hemmings/Jane Woodward Evolve – Lauren Stout G&T – Ellen Watson Teaching, Learning and Assessment – Ellen Watson/Frances Arnott Governor training – John Rogers	Safeguarding/Child protection/E-safety – Melanie Walker/Ellen Watson/Jane Woodward Health & Safety – David Morrall/Andrew Selwood Buildings – David Morrall/Andrew Selwood School Meals – Sarah Bousted Site Manager – David Morrall Catering Manager – Sarah Bousted School Administrators – Jane Bostock and Suzanne Farrar	Headteacher – Melanie Walker Head of Teaching, Learning & Assessment - Ellen Watson/Frances Arnott Head of RE (curriculum and worship) – Melanie Walker/Tess Phillips

Considering Our Impact as a Governing Board in the School Year 2018-2019

Key Development Focus: Reading

The Governing Board noted that our pupils' attainment data in literacy and reading was measured a little below the national average. The Governing Board challenged the School executive leadership to make 'reading' a particular development focus for the year ahead. Initiatives were discussed and implemented with school staff, including curriculum initiatives and capital funding projects, such as KS1 'secret readers'; the new library area; reading volunteers; implementation of reading records/diaries and 'reading buddies'. Governors monitored progress against these aspirations through the year.

Notable Impacts of the Governing Board, Autumn 2018:

Governors:

- Updated policies to ensure processes and procedures have been reviewed.
- Ensured the financial systems including the SFVS (Schools Financial Value Standard), school budget and school fund are closely monitored with systems in good order.
- Ensured arrangements were in place to submit the SFVS and feedback from the previous submission will be reviewed to make improvements.
- Ensured areas of Safeguarding are regularly reviewed and updated; to drive continued safeguarding improvements the online Level 1 Safeguarding Course had been actioned for all governors to complete.
- Challenged the KS1 Reading data and will continue to monitor the actions implemented by the school to address this area.
- Continued effective work in each of the committees.

Notable Impacts of the Governing Board, Spring 2019

Governors:

- Successfully recruited to strengthen the governing board and updated the membership of committees and link governors to ensure key roles of responsibility and oversight are allocated.
- Agreed to challenge Chester Diocese about school improvements which raise concern about the well-being of pupils.
- Ensured continued careful monitoring of the school finances with identified earmarked reserves to make improvements to the school environment for the benefit of pupils.
- Continued with effectively addressing the business of the governing board at both committee level and through organised link visits and reports.
- Received an update on the development of the Curriculum Plans to ensure pupils receive a rich and broad curriculum.
- Continued to promote the highest standards of Safeguarding with the implementation of Section 128 checks for prospective governors in addition to the DBS checks which are repeated on a 5 year cycle.

- Identified that all governors should complete the Level 1 Safeguarding course. The detailed Safeguarding Link Governor reports and visit continue to strengthen this area.
- Acknowledged the introduction of CPOMS (a leading software solution for monitoring safeguarding, wellbeing and all pastoral issues) system to strengthen the reporting of Safeguarding.

Notable Impacts of the Governing Board, Summer 2019:

Governors:

- Continued to successfully recruit members to strengthen the work of the governing board.
- Ensured continued careful monitoring of the school finances which has enabled expanding the staffing provision to meet the needs of pupils.
- Organised link visits and produced comprehensive reports to record developments and monitoring in all areas.
- Maintained good oversight of Safeguarding and ensured the submission of the annual Section 175 safeguarding audit.
- Identified the need for an on-going register of the Level 1 Safeguarding course as completed by governors to ensure there is timely refresh of training.
- Proactively pursued a broad range of building projects which will help to resolve health and safety issues, help reduce costs, provide a positive environmental impact and make aesthetic improvements for the immediate benefit of pupils

How you can contact the Governing Board

We welcome parents' comments, ideas or concerns, which can be addressed to our Chair of Governors, Mike Akerman via chair@stjohnsboll.cheshire.sch.uk.

John Rogers
 Vice-Chair of Governors
 December 2019