

Bollington St. John's Church of England
Primary School



Where talent grows

Head Teacher: Mrs M. Walker

Head of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Mrs E. Watson

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." Colossians 3:23

The Governing Board's Annual Impact Statement

September 2020 - July 2021

The academic year 2020-2021 was overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic, its periods of lockdown; risks of infection; high absence rates and shielding of the vulnerable; challenges of remote learning and continuing in-school provision for children of key workers and those with special educational needs. It was a time of sadness, strain, difficulty and anxiety for many in our school community. Governors were resolved to continue to carry out our role remotely through online technologies and - where government restrictions allowed – socially distanced observation. Priorities were necessarily refocussed from our long-term developmental objectives toward supporting the safe and effective functioning of the school and the welfare of staff and pupils; ensuring catch-up interventions were in place and that our statutory responsibilities were fulfilled. We are immensely grateful to school leaders and all staff for their professionalism and dedication to the welfare of our school community during this time.

The Governing Board – Our Role & Constitution

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. Executive leaders (the Headteacher and her senior leadership team) operate within the autonomy, powers and functions delegated to them by the Governors.

Each member of the Governing Board is 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 core responsibilities such as the safeguarding of pupils in the School, to those specific to our role on the Governing Board, such as 'school finance', 'health & safety' or 'literacy', for example.

Governors are each members of the National Governance Association and receive their regular briefings and reports, as well as Cheshire East Council's weekly schools' bulletin, Government briefings and other significant developments highlighted by the Board's professional clerk.

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 – in normal circumstances - regularly attend school events, undertake classroom visits and 'learning walks' around the School, and carry out consultations with staff, pupils and parents. However,

at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, our ability to carry out on-site visits was restricted to regular socially distanced health & safety meetings outdoors, where government rules allowed.

The term of office of all governors is 4 years.

Governance Arrangements 2020-2021

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 2020 - 2021 school year, the following Governors were in post:

- 1) Melanie Walker**, Ex-Officio Head Teacher Governor
- 2) Ellen Watson**, Staff Governor
- 3) Canon Veronica Hydon**, Ex-Officio Foundation Governor (resigned December 2020)
- 4) Rev. Nancy Goodrich**, Ex-Officio Foundation Governor (from Summer Term 2021),
- 5) Mike Akerman**, Foundation Governor / Chair of Governors
- 6) Carl Malia**, Foundation Governor
- 7) Tess Phillips**, Foundation Governor
- 8) John Rogers**, Foundation Governor, Vice Chair of Governors
- 9) John Whitehead**, Foundation Governor
- 10) Paul Beardmore**, Parent Governor

- 11) Andrew Selwood**, Parent Governor
12) David Skidmore, Foundation Governor

Where to find Attendance Records and Further Information about our Governors

The attendance records of Governors for our Full Board and Committee meetings are published on the school website at www.bollingtonstjohns.co.uk/page/governors/17251, together with brief biographical information and minutes of meetings.

Focus and Responsibilities of Governance Committees 2020 - 2021

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 Education' 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.

Committee Structure

In the 2020-2021 school year, our committee structure was as follows:

Committee 1: Quality of Education

Committee 2: Behaviour and Attitudes

Committee 3: Personal Development

Committee 4: Effectiveness of Leadership and Management Finance

The following table illustrates the committee structure, roles and responsibilities for the school year 2019 -2020:

Quality of Education Chair Carl Malia	Behaviour and Attitudes Chair John Rogers	Personal Development Chair Tess Phillips	Leadership and Management Chair Mike Akerman
Members Ellen Watson Carl Mallia David Skidmore Mike Akerman Melanie Walker	Members John Rogers Paul Beardmore Andrew Selwood John Whitehurst Melanie Walker	Members Carl Mallia Ellen Watson John Rogers Tess Phillips Melanie Walker	Members Mike Akerman Andrew Selwood Tess Phillips Melanie Walker
School Development Plan and SEF Links			
Quality of Education Committee	Behaviour and Attitudes Committee	Personal Development Committee	Leadership and Management Committee
Curriculum RE Mastery EYFS Assessment and targets (individual) Whole school assessment Progress/Tracking FFT/ASP Sport ICT Worship Catch up strategies	Attendance Behaviour Attitudes to learning Bullying E-safety Exclusions Health & Safety (risk assessments including external visits) Buildings/lettings and estate GDPR	Diversity and British/Global Values Life in modern Britain Equality of opportunity Cultural capital/breadth of experiences Relationships and Sex Education PSHE Home school agreement Inclusion Transition School Council and Ethos group Extra curriculum Ethos Wellbeing, spiritual wellbeing and SMSC School meals and healthy lifestyles Church links Community	Church school leadership and SIAMS SEF/SDP Admissions/Term dates Senior Leadership Team Staff CPD/Middle leaders Head's PM Finances and budget Pay Personnel issues/ Staff recruitment Disciplinary and complaints Governor's training Safeguarding including Prevent Child Protection SEND and PP Vulnerable groups , G&T and Cared for Children Pupil Premium

Considering Our Impact as a Governing Board in the School Year 2020-2021

Each year, the Headteacher and senior leadership staff set priorities for school development, informed by attainment data, school improvement consultation, self-evaluation, local school partnerships, national strategy developments and other key considerations. These form part of the school's three year development plan. Governors use this as a basis for critical support to the school's senior leadership team.

Priorities are assigned to each of the four governance committees and reviewed on a termly basis.

Critical Support to the Senior Leadership Team's Development Priorities

In the academic year 2020 – 2021, the school set the following key development priorities:

- 1) Ensuring COVID catch-up interventions are in place
- 2) Continuing to raise the profile and attainment of reading and developing a love of books throughout the school community.
- 3) Embedding a new phonics scheme
- 4) Formulate a new anti-bullying policy in conjunction with the School Council.
- 5) Embed new PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) framework and RSE (Relationships & Sex Education) Policy.
- 6) Develop a new Head of RE and mentor that staff member.
- 7) Develop contingency planning for further lockdowns; write a recovery curriculum and home learning policy.
- 8) Ensure that assessment, especially Baseline, reflects the needs of the new cohort in light of the coronavirus lockdown.

These priorities were monitored and supported by the governing board committees in the following ways:

Governing Board	Committee	2020/21 Priorities
Quality of Education	1	Ensure catch up interventions are in place, children are assessed and learning revisited following the coronavirus lockdown.
		To continue to raise the profile and attainment of reading.
		To embed a new phonics scheme throughout the school, ensuring all staff are trained and we have parental engagement.
Behaviour and Attitudes	2	Write a new Anti-Bullying Policy with the School Council.

Personal Development	3	Embed the new PSHE framework to form a comprehensive well-being strategy that links to our Emotionally Healthy Ambassadors programme.
		Embed, review and assess the RSE curriculum.
Leadership and Management	4	Develop a new Head of RE and mentor that staff member.
		Put in place a Contingency Plan to ensure protocols are in place should there be a second lockdown. Write a Recovery Curriculum so that gaps in learning are addressed. Write a Remote Learning Policy for use with home learning.
EYFS	1	Ensure that assessment, especially Baseline, reflects the needs of the new cohort in light of the coronavirus lockdown.

Notable Impacts of the Governing Board, Autumn 2020:

Governors:

- Challenged to ensure pupils are safe in the current circumstances and are assured in their review of each pupil and their needs as a result of the national lockdown and the pandemic.
- Reviewed the well being of pupils and staff.
- Revised the committee membership and link governor roles following changes in membership to ensure there is a good balance of experience across the board and in key areas.
- Updated policies to ensure processes and procedures have been reviewed.
- Ensured close monitoring of the school finances with a review of monthly budget reports and financial systems embedded.
- Commended the excellent work of staff in unprecedented circumstances.
- Agreed the redesign of the school website, communication of the school in terms of the vision and ethos to the wider community to share the achievements of the school.
- Ensured regular review and updates to the risk assessment and control measures.

Notable Impacts of the Governing Board, Spring 2021

Governors:

- Adapted and continued with good governance despite the challenges of the pandemic and national lockdown.
- Held effective virtual meetings to ensure governance has progressed and remains robust.

- Completed link governor reports thoroughly using virtual meeting methods to ensure continued monitoring across key areas.
- Ensured continued careful monitoring of the school finances. The SFVS received the highest rating of Good and plans were in made to review and complete the SFVS for the subsequent academic year.
- Continued to promote the highest standards of Safeguarding and Health & Safety with regular oversight and assurance of the school's risk assessment in response the fast-paced changes in regulation.
- Ensured statutory policies and documentation was kept up to date and published as required on the school website.
- Ensured staff and pupil well-being ensuring remained of highest priority through continued monitoring.

Notable Impacts of the Governing Board, Summer 2020:

Governors:

- Approved the final annual budget for 2021-22. ·
- Received the minutes from committee meetings. ·
- Ensured the School's Financial Value Statement was submitted to the Local Authority the May 28th deadline. ·
- Monitored attendance and SEND

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
June 2022