

The Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Barford Primary School July 2017

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Barford Primary School Governing Body are:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
2. **Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;**
3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

<p>Governance arrangements</p>	<p>The Governing Body of Barford Primary School was re-constituted in 2015 and is now made up of two staff governors (including the Headteacher), two elected Parent Governors, one Local Authority position which is currently vacant and four Co-opted governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school: on our Governing Body two of the Co-opted governors are parents, one was a previous parent, and he remaining one is a member of the local community.</p> <p>The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also two committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. At Barford Primary we have a Resources Committee, which focuses on finance, premises and some personnel matters; a Curriculum Committee.</p>
<p>Attendance record of governors</p>	<p>All governors are committed to the school and in general terms have a good record of attendance throughout the year, any historic attendance challenges have been dealt with some time ago.</p> <p>We have a mature group with many of the governing body having recent or current links to the school through their own children. We have seen some changes over the past two years, and further changes are expected over the next period.</p>
<p>The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body</p>	<p>The Governing Body has had a particularly busy year, focusing on school improvement, and looking forward to the year ahead. The Learning and Teaching Committee and governors discuss key data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. We also want to be very clear how the pupil</p>

	<p>premium and PE monies are ring-fenced for particular projects and achieve the necessary outcome.</p> <p>The Resources Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget. The committee has spent some considerable time on the new block development and how we can gain the most from the new resource. With the support of the friends of Barford school through its fund raising we have been able to commit to a group break out room with the block. Whilst on the face of it this is a small addition we are really excited about the opportunities this will give us to enhance the education of the whole school.</p> <p>Governors are also particularly concerned about safeguarding and we have a Nominated Governor for Safeguarding who gives a termly report to the governors about any safeguarding matters. Early in the summer term, the Resources Committee approved the 2017/18 budget plan for the school: we are pleased to report that the school is in a reasonable financial position, looking forward three years. But costs to continue to rise and balancing the budget remains a challenge.</p> <p>One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have considered a number of key policies, including Behaviour Management and Safeguarding. We also approved a new Attendance Policy, as a result of a standardisation of this across the cluster, the school cannot agree term time leave and we have to be consistent when measured against other schools. Attendance is a key performance measure for the school.</p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the Governors’ page of our website or you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>The Governing Body is looking forward to the new classroom block being completed. This is a significant yet overdue investment in the school by the local authority, and whilst this does not create any additional capacity, we believe that it will enhance the school significantly. We want to ensure the school leverages this opportunity to the full.</p> <p>The school, through the relaunched school council have been tasked with the development of a new strap line for the school which is updated and appropriate, this remains work in progress.</p> <p>The school has seen an increase in the numbers on its roll over the last few years, to the point now where we are approaching</p>

	<p>capacity. Many parents outside the normal catchment area choose to bring their children to Barford we need to ensure that the close relationship between the school and the local village is maintained. The friends of Barford school are struggling to attract new members which perhaps could be due to the numbers of parents who live outside the natural catchment area. The school historically has gained hugely from the commitment of these individuals through fund raising events and notably the Barford Festival, and it would be a huge loss if this engagement could not be achieved.</p> <p>The next Ofsted is suspected to be not that far away, and we need to ensure that we are ready to present the school in the best possible light and see improvements formally registered which we are working hard to deliver.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing body</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and would like to see perhaps more engagement from parents and the local community. - Please contact the Chair of Governors, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; minutes of governing body meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.</p>

Barford Primary School Governing Body

Governor

Category

Term of office expiry date

Richard Williamson

Co-Opted Governor

Chris McKay

Co-Opted Governor

Vicky Green

Parent Governor

Sarah Harrold

Parent Governor

Matt Jones

Co-Opted Governor

Matt Dunscombe

Staff Governor

Alice Whittingham (currently on Maternity leave)

Staff Governor

Tim Weatherstone

Co-Opted Governor