

The Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Barford Primary School July 2018

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.**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Barford Primary School constitution has not changed in the last 12 months and remains 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, and we anticipate a further parent governor vacancy in the early 2018 school year

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.

Attendance record of governors

All governors remain 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.

The governing board is experiencing some challenges in attracting new members to replace others who have been involved for some years. We are not unique in this but are keen to hear from anybody who feels they have something to give and have the drive and enthusiasm in what is a very rewarding role

The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body

The Governing Body has once again had a busy year, which included a full Ofsted inspection, which confirmed once again our Good rating. All parties were pleased with the grading particularly given that expectations and standard have risen since

our last inspection and standing still would not have achieved the same outcome.

This has had a particularly busy year which has seen a degree of upheaval with builders being on site for most of the new building the new classroom block, this is now complete and signed off and we are all looking for positive impact to all areas of school performance.

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 premium and PE monies are ring-fenced for particular projects and achieve the necessary outcome.

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.

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 2018/19 budget plan for the school: we are pleased to report that the school is in a reasonable financial position, but the same challenges remain looking forward

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 remain a key performance measure for the school and has seen some slippage in the last school year.

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>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>The Governing Body is looking forward to the new classroom block being fully operational and the stability this will now bring. This is was 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 due to be published very soon.</p> <p>The school has recently seen a slight dip in numbers but remains close to capacity, the challenge of engagement remains with the local links between the school, its pupils and parents as important as ever. 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 still 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, with the 2018 being another great example, and it would be a huge loss if this engagement could not be achieved.</p> <p>Whilst the Ofsted inspection is behind us, we have to continue to meet standard and look to improve, the next one may be three years ago but we start planning now!</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
Chris McKay
Sarah Harrold
Craig Pym
Matt Dunscombe
Alice Whittingham
Tim Weatherstone
Vacancy
Vacancy

Co-Opted Governor
Co-Opted Governor
Parent Governor
Co-Opted Governor
Staff Governor
Staff Governor
Co-Opted Governor
L/A Governor
Parent Governor