



Governor Newsletter

Friday 27th May 22

We thought it would be useful to use this newsletter to provide parents with some headlines on the activity of the Governors throughout this school year and to remind you of our role and what we do to support and challenge the school.

Introduction to our role as Governors

“The purpose of governance is to provide confident and strong strategic leadership which leads to robust accountability, oversight and overall effectiveness.”

*National
Governors
Association*

The focus of the Governing Body is to provide oversight of the School, supporting the Headteacher and staff to deliver the best education for the Children. We are concerned with Governance, rather than operational management (which is the role of the school management) - ‘eyes on, hands off’, if you like. Our core responsibilities are to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and it’s pupils
- Ensure the effective and efficient performance management of staff and executive leaders
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure money is well spent
- Ensure the voice of stakeholders is heard
- Discharge delegated duties on behalf of the Trust

Our Local Governing Body Governors are: Lousie Warren – Headteacher; Samantha Brady – Chair of Governors; Rosamund Willis – Vice Chair; James Stevens; Georgina Siedle; Tim Saunders; Lucy Gildersleeves; Mary Lines; Talisker Macleod; Andrew Comfort; Steven Houston.

On the school website you can find more information on the Governors, their positions and responsibilities, along with all approved LGB minutes.

In the sections below we have provided a little more information into areas of responsibility and activity, for you to understand a bit more about our work. Please feel free to reach out to any of us on matters concerning governance that you would like to discuss

Strategic Matters

Finance – budget monitoring

We are constantly monitoring the school budget to ensure we stay within it.

Achievement & Progress Data

We regularly review and monitor anonymised progress data by year group to understand the achievements against benchmarks, and interventions put in place.

Strategic Vision – 5-year strategic plan

We have started looking again at a 3-5 year vision and strategic plan for Buckland School. We have been identifying strategic areas we would like to strengthen/grow and also areas where we should cut back over the next 3-5 year, all through the prism of living the school values. We are focusing the strategic vision around three pillars:

- Learners First (Quality of Education)
- Nurture & Develop our People (Personal development, Behaviour and Attitudes)
- Strengthen and Grow (Leadership and Management)

We will be exploring and discussing these pillars further and looking at how will we measure success at our next LGB meeting.

Equality Objectives

Following a review, the governing body has agreed the following Equality Objectives:

- To improve pupils' knowledge of the difference between cultural identities and religious practice both in the UK and in specific areas of the world.
- Ensure children from all socio-economic backgrounds feel that they are treated equally and have equal access to all facets of school life.
- Ensure children have a positive understanding / attitude towards those who have additional needs.
- Encourage children to value older people in our local community.
- Ensure that children understand that people and families are diverse.

Raising Achievement Plan (RAP)

The RAP is an annual plan that the Governors approve and monitor, holding the headteacher and school leadership to account for delivering. The RAP sets out Buckland Schools' objectives for the year and is based on four premises:

- All children and adults are able to thrive in a supportive environment in which emotional needs and well-being are put first.
- Core learning must “stick” so that children can make progress in all subjects across year groups with a particular focus on the foundation subjects.
- Those who find it harder to learn are identified and given the right resources and support to make the best progress they can.
- Being wise, responsible and kind is embedded in daily life for everyone in the community.

As governors, we review and monitor progress on these four premises through 13 targets. Alongside this we monitor progress against defined subject action plans for each subject.

The RAP can be found on the website, if you would like to look at it in more detail.

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMs) framework

SIAMS framework is like an OFSTED inspection but for the spiritual element of school life. Schools are asked to undertake their own self-evaluation to prepare for SIAMS and the Governors play a key role in this process working alongside the Headteacher and staff. Key questions we ask are:

- Who are we as a school?
- Why are we here?
- How then do we live?

This helps us to articulate our Christian vision and define how this is reflected in the school's provision as a Church school and how this impacts pupils and enables all to flourish.

Safeguarding

At the start of the school year we reviewed and contributed to the OCC safeguarding audit. At each LGB meeting, we have a standing agenda item to look at the safeguarding of our children and many Governors renewed their safeguarding training last term.

Governor visits / monitoring & reviewing progress

Several Governors have visited the school to conduct visits to see learning in action, and ensure that the school is operating consistently with the reports made to the Governing Body. This is one of the main duties as a governor.

Governors are allocated 'subject areas' to form links with, and when we carry out monitoring visits, we identify what the intent is for the subject, and the activity to realise this intent. We explore the sequencing of the curriculum from Nursery to Y6 and the planned implementation of this, understanding how it's broken down into small steps across the term, including medium and long-term planning.

We view lessons and use 'learning walks', speaking with children to validate what we have learned during our monitoring visit, and explore how SEND children are being supported.

Premises & Equipment

We have reviewed quotes for the replacement of the computers in the ICT suite, audited the school's sports equipment and have planned a programme to refresh equipment using the Sports Premium funding allocated to the school.

We would like to thank the FOBS committee and all parents for the fundraising that contributed substantially to the new computers in the IT suite, and hope your children have told you how much faster the new computers are to use.

We have also prioritised developing a link with St Hugh's to make use of sports facilities, which has begun with the use of their swimming pool.

A Health and safety review of the school site has also been conducted, which included staff questions, review of policies and a security audit.

We hope this newsletter has given you a brief overview of the work we do as Governors, in support of your children's education. We are always happy to provide more information on our work, so if you have any questions or would like to hear about anything in particular, please let us know.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors, we would like to thank Ms Warren for her excellent leadership of the school, and all our teachers and support staff for their dedication in providing an outstanding learning environment for our children on a daily basis. We would also like to congratulate them on the seamless way school has dealt with the uniquely challenging situation COVID has presented over the past year.

Best Regards, Rosamund Willis, on behalf of the Governors