

Burton Bradstock CE Primary School Local Governing Body

Report for year 2016-17

Governing Body Membership and Operation:

Following the resignation of two parent governors, Sarah Sewell has joined the governing body as a parent governor. Although the vacancy for an additional parent governor was publicised the post was not filled and we are hoping that a parent/carer will apply for this post in the near future. Attendance at governing body meetings have continued to be excellent which, in view of the many commitments of the individuals involved, demonstrates the high level of commitment and growing expertise. Pat Lewis-Badgett (former vice-chair) was elected as chair and Julian Piper (former chair) was elected as vice chair.

The governing body met on 5 occasions during the year. Since becoming part of the Minerva Learning Trust (MLT) the role of the governing body has reduced with some of its previous responsibilities handed over to the MLT Board of Trustees. Five groups of governors report to the governing body to ensure statutory responsibilities are met.

- Headteacher's Performance Management
- Staff Pay and Progression
- Finance and Premises
- Standards
- Chaplaincy

The Finance group met on a regular basis in order to ensure budgetary matters were secure and adequately monitored and to support the Headteacher with premises issues. The Standards group met each term to monitor pupils' progress and to monitor the Single Action Plan following the Ofsted inspection. The Chaplaincy group met termly to monitor and promote the Christian character of the School along the guidelines set by the toolkit for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and to find ways of increasing the links between the Church, the School and the local community.

Key Priorities:

The key strategic priorities for the year were agreed and shared with the staff:

- Improving overall standards of attainment across the School
- Increasing collaboration with other schools
- Increasing numbers on roll
- Improving parental engagement with their children's learning
- staff morale

The agenda for each of the meetings during the year was driven by these key priorities.

Improving Standards:

The overall results at the end of 2015/16 were particularly pleasing and staff continued to work extremely hard to consolidate their efforts in raising standards in 2016/17. Writing continued to be a priority and performance data suggests that the children's writing has improved considerably.

Maths has remained a key priority and Miss Sanderson and Mrs Wardle have continued to be involved in staff development which has involved them working with colleagues from other schools and developing new ideas to support this area of the curriculum. Governors have been keen to support this wider involvement of staff in order to reduce isolation and provide access to new ideas.

Miss Varndell continued with her Dorset County Council role as moderator for Writing at Key Stage 2 and in addition was appointed as Language and Communication co-ordinator for the MLT.

The Standards group has received reports from the Headteacher at each meeting on standards in English and Maths, pupil progress but also on the employment of interventions and their effectiveness in targeting pupils' needs –these are discussed at Local Governing Body meetings.

Governors have linked with subject areas and have met subject leaders regularly in order to gain an understanding of the complexities involved and monitor pupil progress.

Kay Taylor, the MLT Executive Principal, has provided triangulation of evidence of standards and assessments for governors and the Headteacher and this work along with her guidance during the Headteacher's performance review has been invaluable.

Increasing Collaboration with Other Schools:

This year has provided increased opportunities for collaboration, both academically and extra-curricular, between the four schools of the MLT. This has involved all aspects of education and has provided the staff and governors opportunities to work closely together to provide a first class learning experience.

Increasing Numbers on Roll

Attracting children to the school was still a priority in 2016/17. A promotional leaflet was produced in the Summer of 2016 which was distributed to pre-schools, local shops, Information Centre and at local events. It is pleasing to note that the number of children on roll in September has increased to 82. Governors are very conscious of the direct relationship between numbers on roll and income to the School and are keen to keep the school roll as high as possible.

Increasing Parental Engagement:

Attendance at parent consultations remains high. Providing attractive opportunities to talk with parents or carers about their children's learning is a priority for the school as it appreciates the pressures and commitments on families. The school website has been improved, thanks to Julian Piper. It now includes a Twitter feed and provides links to information or examples of the curriculum and ways in which parents/carers can support their children's learning. The Parent Forum has engaged some parents in discussions about concerns which the school has addressed e.g. the school investigated the possibility of running a Breakfast Club but unfortunately the number of children wanting this facility was too low to make it financially viable at this time.

A new policy on homework called 'Home Learning' was written which hopefully reduces the stress at home created between parents/carers and their children whilst finding ways of encouraging a fun and enjoyable approach to learning together.

Governors have accompanied class 3 & 4 to the Leisure Centre on Friday and have also assisted at Sports' Day.

The governors would like to thank the Friends for their hard work and commitment in raising funds for the school. This additional income has been invaluable in supporting extra-curricular activities such as the Pantomime trip, the Magdalen project, costs for transport to residentials, additional resources and the refurbishment of the area outside of the Sails classroom. In addition, we would like to thank the parents who gave their time and energy to support the Headteacher in painting the school during the first weekend of the summer holidays.

Staff Morale:

The staff governor has been asked to provide information about this strategic priority throughout the year and wherever possible support has been provided to reduce potential stress points. In addition, the MLT has created a Staff Wellbeing Group with representatives from each school which should provide additional support.

Chaplaincy Group

The recent SIAMS inspection (May 2017) judged the school to be GOOD which reflected the Christian ethos of the school. The Chaplaincy group, which includes Canon Stephen Batty, the Headteacher, the foundation governors, a parent and a member of the local community, monitors and meets to discuss all aspects of the Christian character of the school and supports collective worship such as introducing children to Bible stories in Open the Book collective worship.

Future Developments:

Succession planning remains a priority for the governing body as is the continuing development of skills – hence the decision to retain subscriptions to NGA and Dorset Governor Services. All governors have attended training sessions to improve their skills and knowledge. A skills audit was completed by governors in July 2017, which provided invaluable information regarding areas for development. Questionnaires were sent to staff, parents/carers and pupils and the results analysed to provide evidence for future developments. Governors interviewed Y6 leavers to gain information about the children's experiences and highlight any improvements that the school can make.

Pat Lewis-Badgett

Chair of Governors