

Burton Bradstock CE Primary School Local Governing Body

Report for year 2017-18

The Local Governing Body has three main functions:

- Working with the Headteacher to establish the school's strategic direction in order to provide the best possible education for all of the pupils. This includes the vision of how they want the school to develop in the future and to maintain the Christian ethos of the school.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school, its pupils and staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school in order to ensure that the budget is well spent. The budget is monitored throughout the year by the Headteacher, the Local Governing Body and the Minerva Learning Trust.

All governors have attended training sessions to improve their skills and knowledge. A governance audit and questionnaires to staff, parents/carers and pupils have provided the governors with invaluable information for developments in the coming year. In addition, Y6 leavers were interviewed to gain information about the children's experiences.

Governing Body Membership and Operation

Sian German was appointed as a parent governor in the Spring term 2018. The community governor (former LA governor) resigned during the Autumn term. It is with great sadness to report that our rector and co-opted governor, Revd Canon Stephen Batty, died after a prolonged illness with Motor Neuron Disease in May. Stephen brought both experience and wisdom to our meetings. He was a true friend to all the school community and his spiritual guidance will be greatly missed. It is anticipated that the new Rector, when appointed, will be invited to join the governing body.

Attendance at meetings has continued to be excellent which demonstrates the high level of commitment and growing expertise. Pat Lewis-Badgett was re-elected as chair and Julian Piper was re-elected as vice-chair.

The full governing body met on 5 occasions during the year and 4 sub-groups of governors reported to the governing body to ensure statutory responsibilities were met. These sub-groups are:

- Headteacher's Performance Management - met each term
- Staff Pay and Progression – met in October
- Standards Scrutiny - met each term
- Chaplaincy – met each term

Safeguarding

The Minerva Learning Trust commissioned a Review of Safeguarding Arrangements for children at the four schools in the Autumn Term 2017. The school's practice of having two Lead Safeguarding governors was considered to be a good example for the other schools. The governors undertake visits and conversations to gain

assurance. The report stated that at the school 'there is a clear understanding of risks and tactics to mitigate risks from all parties.

Key Priorities

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

- Improving overall standards of attainment across the school
- Increasing numbers on roll
- Improving parental engagement with their children's learning
- Staff Wellbeing
- SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) 2017 Action Points

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

Improving Standards

Developing an understanding of teaching 'mastery' in maths has been a priority and to achieve this teachers and TAs have been involved in two main initiatives – the Jurassic Maths Hub project and the SSIF project. Throughout the year staff have collaborated with teachers from other schools and the SSIF project has produced changes in the way that maths is planned, delivered and assessed. In order to meet the needs of all pupils two governors have given their time to support the maths learning by working intensively with small groups of KS2 pupils.

The introduction of PUMA testing in years 5 and 6 was helpful in assessing pupil progress and areas of weakness and will be adopted in other year groups in future.

The Single Action Plan/School Improvement Plan was presented by the Headteacher to the Standards Scrutiny group of governors and the actions and progress monitored at each meeting. Detailed reports on pupil progress and the impact of interventions in targeting pupils' needs were also discussed at each meeting and a summary report presented to each local governing body meeting.

Governors are linked with subject areas and have met subject leaders regularly to gain an understanding of the curriculum, assessment criteria and pupil progress. Governors are also attached to classes and supported pupils by listening to them read. The governor linked to Pupil Premium and Disadvantaged pupils and SEND pupils was involved in the MLT reviews into each area. A retired teacher with expertise in Phonics was also enlisted to provide individual support to KS1 pupils.

A new Home Learning policy was introduced two years ago. Two governors and the Head of KS4 at Sir John Colfox Academy interviewed children from each class in order to evaluate its effectiveness. Each child brought a selection of work to the meeting and discussed what they had done and how it had been marked. It was a very positive experience, demonstrating the effectiveness of the new policy, and the children were proud to show their work.

Kay Taylor, the MLT Executive Principal has continued to provide triangulation 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

and has provided a greater depth of understanding than had previously been possible with SEPs in the past.

Increasing numbers on roll

Attracting children to the school has remained a priority and the number of children on roll was 83 at the end of 2017-18. The governors agreed that the school should investigate the possibility of introducing a Foundation Unit for children from 3 years of age. This would benefit the children entering the Reception class by providing pre-school educational experiences in the school environment and would also increase the school's income. Consultations with the local community suggested that this would be a popular move. It is pleasing to report that the school has been successful in its bid and the unit will start in January 2019, initially with children who are 4 years old.

Increasing Parental Engagement

Attendance at parent consultations has remained 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 'open classes' have proved to be particularly popular. Julian Piper has continued to manage the school website and updates specialist educational information to support parents on a regular basis. The Parent Forum has met after Good Work Assembly each term and the governors are always open to any suggestions or concerns that are discussed at the meetings. A Breakfast Club has been established at the request of some parents or carers. The school is indebted to a team of committed parents who run the club each morning on a voluntary basis. After discussion regarding the lack of progress with this objective, governors agreed to set up a working party to investigate how other schools promote parental engagement in their children's learning and also to review research into this important area.

The governors would like to thank the Friends for their unstinting hard work in raising funds throughout the year. This additional income has supported extra-curricular activities such as the Pantomime Trip, costs for transport to residential and day visits and in the purchase of the resource 'Cornerstones' which will be used in the delivery of the curriculum starting in September 2018

Governors have accompanied Classes 3 & 4 to the Leisure Centre on Friday afternoons in order to provide the necessary ratio of adults to children and have also assisted on Sports' Day.

Staff Wellbeing

The staff governor reports any concerns and highlights any forthcoming stress points at every local governing body meeting so that action can be taken to mitigate the impact of events. A member of staff has attended the MLT wellbeing group and has shared any issues that have arisen with the rest of the staff.

SIAMS Inspection action points

The Chaplaincy Group, which includes a member of the local community and a parent in addition to governors, has met to discuss and monitor all aspects of the Christian character of the school and has supported and monitored collective worship. A group

from the local community has continued to introduce the children to Bible Stories in Open the Book assemblies. It has monitored the SIAMS action points and has continued to improve links with the Church and the community.

Restructuring the Staff Workforce

Over the last few years the school has experienced a decrease in funding due to the decrease in pupil numbers and the decrease in funding from central government and the local authority. The governors have found it necessary to restructure the staffing in order to balance the budget whilst maintaining four classes which they believe will continue to provide a first-class education for all the children. Governors are grateful to the staff for their professionalism in dealing with these difficult times.

Minerva Learning Trust (MLT) AGM 26th March 2018

Governors attended the MLT AGM after which they met some governors from the other schools, the members and trustees and participated in a workshop which looked at potential future developments as funding from central government decreases.

P.Lewis-Badgett
Chair of Governors