

# Burton Bradstock CE Primary School Local Governing Body

## Report for year 2018-19

### Ofsted Inspection 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

The governors are delighted to report that the school was graded **GOOD** during the Ofsted Inspection. The headteacher was recognised for her effective leadership and strategic planning and staff were praised for their understanding of the children's needs. It is pleasing to note that the headteacher and all the staff continue to provide the best opportunities for all the children in the school.

**Ofsted** 'The headteacher and others responsible for school leadership know the school well. They are accurate and objective in their evaluation of the school's strengths and areas for development'.

'Teachers have high expectations of pupils. They set tasks that are matched to pupils' abilities and interests.'

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.

**Ofsted** 'Governors exercise their responsibilities effectively. They provide both support and challenge to the headteacher'.

### Governing Body Membership and Operation

Attendance at meetings has continued to be excellent which demonstrates the high level of commitment and growing expertise. All governors have attended relevant training in order to fulfil their roles and responsibilities. Pat Lewis-Badgett was re-elected as chair with Julian Piper and Sian German elected as vice-chairs. One of the parent/carer governors resigned at the end of the Summer term and as a result there will be an election for a replacement during the Autumn term.

The full governing body met on 3 occasions during the year with 4 sub-groups of governors reporting 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
- Performance and Standards - met each term
- Chaplaincy – met each term

### Safeguarding

As stated in the recent **Ofsted** report 'The governing body has effective oversight of safeguarding in the school. Nominated governors ensure that the school's child-protection policy is adhered to in practice.' The school organised two training sessions for staff and governors in April - Safeguarding and Prevent.

## 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

The School Improvement Plan was presented by the Headteacher to the Governors and the Performance and Standards group monitored the actions and progress 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 at each local governing body meeting.

There were 4 priorities in the School Improvement Plan:

- Introduce a new curriculum across the school.
- Fully embed a 'mastery' curriculum in Maths across the school
- Improve vocabulary and language across the school
- Establish a pre-school within a Foundation Stage Unit.

The new curriculum, Cornerstones, was successfully introduced across the school. Not only has this new curriculum created enthusiasm to learn it has also provided exciting opportunities for the children to develop their literacy skills. During the Autumn term Mrs.Staple and Mrs.Procter delivered a most informative workshop on the Cornerstones Curriculum and Tapestry, which is used as a monitoring tool in Reception, for Governors.

Governors are linked with subject areas and have met subject leaders regularly to gain an understanding of the curriculum, assessment criteria and pupil progress. They have been present at book scrutiny and pupil interview sessions and have been involved in learning walks across the school. 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, which involved meeting governors from the other schools each term.

Kay Taylor, the MLT Executive Principal, 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 proved to be invaluable. Mrs.Taylor also provided Ofsted training for governors, which enabled them to evaluate the school's performance accurately using the Ofsted Framework.

**Ofsted:** 'Governors have a detailed understanding of the school's priorities for improvement'.

## Increasing numbers on roll

Attracting children to the school has remained a priority and the number of children on roll was 80 at the end of 2018-19. During 2017-18 it was agreed to open a Foundation Unit which would benefit the children entering the Reception class by providing pre-school educational experiences in the school environment and in addition would increase the school's income. The unit started in January 2019 with children who were 4 years old and numbers increased from 1 to 3 children by the end of July. These will enter Reception in September 2019.

**Ofsted:** 'Children benefit from a very positive start to their time in school. Early years staff have high expectations of children and establish routines for learning from the outset.'

### **Increasing Parental Engagement**

Attendance at parent consultations has remained high with the school continuing to provide attractive opportunities to talk with parents and carers about their children's learning. The Cornerstones activities 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 Breakfast Club has gone from strength to strength. The school is indebted to a team of committed parents who run the club each morning on a voluntary basis. It is obvious from the Ofsted Parent View that parents and carers value the school and the opportunities it provides the children in curricular and extra-curricular activities.

The governors would like to thank the Friends for their continuing 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 is used in the delivery of the curriculum.

The school has ongoing structural problems with the boundary wall between the playgrounds and the leat. During the summer holidays a group of parents kindly worked hard to remove some of the decking. It will be necessary to gain professional advice before further work can be undertaken.

**Ofsted:** 'Parents and carers are highly supportive of the school. They value the nurturing school culture and the good communication that exists between home and school'.

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 at the Christmas Fair and on Sports Day.

### **Staff Wellbeing**

In the absence of the staff governor, who was on maternity leave, the Headteacher reported any concerns and highlighted any forthcoming stress points at every local governing body meeting so that actions could be taken to mitigate the impact of events.

**Ofsted:** 'All staff who responded to the survey strongly agreed that the school is well led and managed. They all strongly agreed that they are proud to work at the school.'

### **SIAMS Inspection action points**

The Chaplaincy Group, which includes a member of the local community and a parent in addition to foundation governors, has met to discuss and monitor all aspects of the Christian character of the school and has supported and monitored collective worship. It has monitored the SIAMS action points and has continued to improve links with the Church and the community. The Revd Pete Stone (Bridport Ministry and a Trustee of the MLT) attended Chaplaincy meetings during the Church's interregnum. He gave invaluable guidance to the group and led school Collective Worship, which the children enjoyed immensely. Open the Book assemblies, led by members of the community, continue to be popular. At Easter the Chaplaincy Group collaborated with Church members to produce 'Experience Easter', an interactive installation, in the Church. The children were guided around 6 stations representing the Easter story by the Foundation governors. This proved to be so successful that it is hoped the event will be repeated in 2020 and parents and carers will be invited to visit.

## **Minerva Learning Trust (MLT)**

The school and governors have continued to collaborate with the other schools within the Minerva Learning Trust. Kay Taylor, the Executive Principal, retired at the end of the academic year and will be replaced by Andrew Lovett. The governors will miss Mrs.Taylor's professionalism and support and look forward to working with Mr.Lovett in the future.

Governors attended the MLT AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

P.Lewis-Badgett  
Chair of Governors