

Burton Bradstock CE Primary School Local Governing Body

Annual report 2019-20

Minerva Learning Trust Multi-Academy

Since April 2016 the school has been part of the Minerva Learning Trust, which delegates some of its responsibilities to the school's Local Governing Body. The school and governors have continued to collaborate and strengthen the links with the other schools in the Trust i.e. St.Mary's CE School, Bridport Primary and Sir John Colfox Academy. The new Executive Principal, Andrew Lovett started in September and together with the Headteachers has provided invaluable leadership throughout the year.

During the Autumn term the staff were outstanding when they covered the Headteacher's absence due to medical reasons.

This year has been unprecedented due to the spread of Covid19 and the implementation of National lockdown from 23rd March. Throughout this period the school has remained open, including the Easter holidays, for vulnerable children and children of key workers. This involved careful planning and management by the Headteacher and the staff. The safety and education of the pupils has been the priority and staff have taught in school and developed a range of online teaching and monitoring to fulfil this goal.

Governors have also been required to adapt to these new arrangements but have maintained the statutory responsibilities of governorship:

- Working with the Headteacher to establish the school's strategic direction in order to provide the best possible education for all 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.
- Ensuring accountability by monitoring progress towards targets and contributing to the school's self-evaluation. This includes holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school, its pupils and staff.
- Supporting the Minerva Learning Trust in ensuring financial security. The budget is monitored by the Headteacher, the Local Governing Body and the Minerva Learning Trust.
- Oversight of Safeguarding arrangements in school.

Governing Body Membership and Operation

Pat Lewis-Badgett was re-elected as chair with Sian German re-elected as vice-chair. The teacher governor was re-elected in March and a new co-opted governor was elected at the end of the summer term. The 3 foundation governors were re-appointed by the Diocese in April. There are 2 parent governor vacancies.

There is a high commitment to the school with excellent attendance at meetings. Governors have continued to develop their skills and have attended relevant training courses. The Key priorities were:

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

The full governing body met on 3 occasions, including one virtual meeting during the summer term. There are 4 sub-groups of governors responsible for specific areas reporting to the board and link governors and Safeguarding governors monitor areas of responsibility by meeting the relevant member of staff each term. However, the frequency of all meetings was curtailed by lockdown. The sub-groups are:

- Headteacher's Performance Management
- Staff pay progression
- Performance and Standards
- Chaplaincy

From 23rd March the Department for Education advised governors not to enter schools and for governing boards to restrict their agendas to key issues including monitoring the wellbeing and welfare of pupils, staff and stakeholders. From then on governance was carried out by virtual meetings and email. Throughout the restrictions of the pandemic the Headteacher fully informed the governors on Department for Education guidance, which often changed from day to day, and its impact on the school. Policies were adapted and a thorough risk assessment to minimise the effects of Covid19 was written and then adapted to accommodate the opening of the school in September.

Improving Standards

The School Improvement Plan was presented by the Headteacher and monitored by the Performance and Standards group. Detailed reports on pupil progress and the impact of interventions in targeting pupils' needs were discussed and challenged at the meetings in the Autumn and Spring terms and a detailed report presented to the governors at the full governors' meetings in November and March. At these meetings governors were able to ask questions for clarification.

There were 3 priorities in the School Improvement Plan:

- Continue to implement the new curriculum, Cornerstones
- Review the school's vision in light of the SIAMS framework (April 2018) and meet the actions from the SIAMS Inspection (May 2017)
- Raise standards in core subjects through increased staff knowledge, quality First Teaching and effective interventions

As a result of the partial school closure, it was difficult to implement all of the action points, which will be reviewed and included in the priorities for 2020-21

In January, the Rt.Hon. Nick Gibb MP, Minister for School Standards, wrote to the school to congratulate it on the SATs results of 2019. 100% pupils reached or exceeded the

expected standards of reading at the end of KS2, which placed the school in the top 1% of primary schools in the country.

Increasing numbers on roll

There were 84 pupils on roll in July with all pre-school children reaching school age starting in Reception in September. Attracting children to the school has remained a priority and the success of the pre-school unit, with 7 children on roll, has provided educational experiences in the school environment for children before they enter Reception.

Increasing Parental Engagement

Attendance at parent consultations remained high and staff continued with the dialogue throughout the period of lockdown. Parents or carers were contacted via telephone and email to ensure children were safe and continuing with their learning at home.

Governors would like to thank the parents or carers who worked so hard to support their children with their online learning and fund-raising activities. The school's website provided a platform for the children to demonstrate their school work and extra-curriculum activities in the virtual Good Work assemblies and Twitter feed.

The governors would like to thank the Friends for their hard work in raising money before lockdown. Some of the funds enabled the school to buy Chromebooks for the children, which were necessary for home learning. A very generous benefactor living in the village donated money to ensure that every child had access to a computer.

The school is indebted to a group of committed parents who organise and run a very successful Breakfast Club each morning on a voluntary basis.

Staff

Throughout the year all staff have demonstrated their dedication to the children. They have worked tirelessly to provide an excellent education for all and throughout lockdown have proved to be innovative in their approach to teaching and learning. Governors have been mindful of staff work-life balance and wellbeing.

SIAMS Inspection action points

The new Rector, Revd. Jane Williams joined the Chaplaincy group. Open the Book assemblies, led by members of the local community continued until lockdown. The children led and performed an Open the Book act of worship in the Church as part of the Bride Valley Wedding Festival Weekend in February.

P.Lewis-Badgett

Chair of Governors

