



Brent Knoll C of E Primary School Governors' Annual Report - 2019-2020

The Government requires all school governing bodies to have three core strategic functions which apply to our School. These are:

- 1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- 2. Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;**
- 3. Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure funds are well spent.**

The Wessex Learning Trust

In April 2019 Brent Knoll School became an academy and joined the Wessex Learning Trust (WLT). This means the school is no longer managed by the Local Authority. Brent Knoll's Governing Body is now part of the governance structure within the Trust and is now defined as the Local Governing Body (LGB). Responsibilities remain as before.

Governance Arrangements

Brent Knoll's Governing Body is part of the governance structure within the Wessex Learning Trust (WLT) and is defined as the Local Governing Body (LGB)

The LGB of Brent Knoll Primary School currently consists of:

2 Parent Governors; 1 Staff Governor; 2 Foundation Governors plus the Priest in Charge; 4 Co-opted governors; the Headteacher. (31.08.2020)

The aim is to ensure that the Local Governing Body reflects our local community and includes people with the skills and experience to contribute to the effective governance and success of the School. We will continue to review the membership and development needs of the Governing Body with the aim of

ensuring that members actively contribute an appropriate range of skills and experience to support the further progress of the School.

The School continues as an active member of the Burnham & Highbridge Community Partnership of local primary schools and the King Alfred School, which supports joint training and other initiatives to make the best use of available resources and share experience and expertise.

The Work of the Local Governing Body

Governors are unpaid, but give their time and expertise voluntarily. The Local Governing Body meets as a whole four or five times a year, more if required, and in addition there are other committee meetings. A register is maintained of declarations made by governors of any financial or other interests that may have a bearing on decisions made by the LGB.

The focus, as always, remains firmly directed at improving outcomes for all children by delivering high quality teaching and maximising progress and attainment. Named Governors have specific responsibility for one or more areas of school life. In this capacity they visit the school to meet with their school staff link member to monitor the impact of activities relating to the School Improvement Plan (SIP). They also gather information through informal observations and discussion with members of staff and pupils. They ask questions, challenge when necessary and seek evidence. This is reported to the Local Governing Body as a whole.

Governors discuss key data, looking at the results of pupil achievement and progress against local and national achievements, so that we can be sure that the School is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. We are also concerned with the needs of our more disadvantaged children and focus on how the Pupil Premium and Sport Premium Grants are being spent by the School and what impact this has on their outcomes.

You can find more information about the different initiatives and their impact on children's learning and well-being, on the School's website. The amount of these grants received by the School is determined by the number of children who are eligible for free school meals and we encourage all parents whose children are entitled to free school meals to register for these.

Covid -19

Since March 2020 Covid - 19 has dominated all our lives and has had a huge impact on how schools function. Throughout the period of lockdown for schools, from 23 March until the end of the summer term, Brent Knoll staff worked throughout to provide the best possible learning opportunities for pupils working at home and those in school whose parents were key workers. They managed to effectively expand provision in school for the additional year groups stipulated by the government. Feedback from parents has shown appreciation for their hard work and creativity in keeping pupils engaged in their learning and the whole school community, including parents, must be congratulated on their efforts. From September 2020 all pupils are back in school and detailed risk assessments have taken place to ensure all are conforming to the Covid restrictions. We all look forward to a greater measure of normality in the next academic year.

Contacting the Local Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. You can see the full list of Governors on the governance page of the School website. Minutes of LGB meetings are public documents and you can ask the Clerk to the LGB if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

Contact: Lisa Lodge, Clerk to the LGB: llodge@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Sue Owen, Chair of the Local Governing Body (September 2020)