

Governors' Annual Report – for 2017/2018

The Governing Body has three core functions:

- Setting the vision and strategic direction of the School.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for its educational performance of the School.
- Ensuring financial resources are well spent.

As well as:

- The governance arrangements that are in place, including the remit of any committees;
- The attendance record of individual governors at Governing Body meetings; and
- An assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the Governing Body and any committees, with details of any particular challenges that have arisen.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body of Brent Knoll Primary School was made up of eight governors during the past year, as set out in the table on page 4. Also see page 4 for a full list of Governing Body members, who served during the year, their terms of office and attendance at meetings.

The aim is to ensure that the 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.

The Governing Body normally meets seven times a year, and more often, if required.

As part of our governance arrangements, we maintain a register of declarations made by governors of any financial or other interests that may have a bearing on decisions made by the Governing Body and a summary is included on page 4 below.

The Instrument of Government for the School has: Foundation: 3, Staff: 1, HT: 1, LA: 1, Co-opted: 5, Parent: 2. Total Governors: 13 (there were 4 vacancies).

The Work of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has continued to focus on school improvement to support teaching and learning improvement, and to tackle areas where further improvements are needed. Governors discuss key data, giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, against County Council 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.

The Governing Body also oversees staffing levels and makes decisions about how the School should use the budget, which has been maintained a reasonable amount for contingencies, through careful management, despite the increasing financial pressures. Governors are also particularly concerned with safeguarding and child protection, including e-safety. We have a nominated safeguarding governor (Kim Wilcox), and safeguarding is a standing item on all Governing Body agendas.

Individual Governors are nominated to have Link Roles, with key members of staff, to have overview of different areas in relation to the curriculum and other aspects of the School, depending on their interests and expertise. Visit reports are made to the Governing Body throughout the year.

One of the roles for the Governors is agreeing and monitoring school policies, on a rolling programme for annual, 2-yearly or 3-yearly reviews.

We have continued to keep a close focus on attendance at the School. The Governing Body recognises that the increasingly strict government guidelines, which allow schools to authorise term-time holidays only in exceptional circumstances, may cause problems for some parents. We are pleased that pupil attendance was good during the year and remains over the 95% minimum target set by the government.

Future Plans for Governors

The School Development Plan has been revised, with staff and governors input, to take forward priorities for the School over the next three years, including measures to enhance achievement in maths, reading and writing; to improve pupils' spelling and handwriting; and to respond to national recommendations in relation to managing teachers' workload. The Governing Body is also continuing to review the implications for the School of developments in education both locally and nationally, and the government's strategy for the future to ensure that we are prepared to meet the challenges and take the School forward in the best interests of its pupils.

As part of this the Governing Body has considered, as you will be aware, the potential advantages and disadvantages of the School converting to Academy status and has decided that it would be beneficial overall by joining the Wessex Learning Trust.

The School is 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.

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.

We are looking forward to becoming an Academy next year and joining the Wessex Learning Trust.

Contacting the Governing Body or find out more

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Hugh Mackay, via the School Office. You can see the full list of Governors and more information about what we do, on the governance page of the School website.

Minutes of Governing Body meetings are public documents. You can ask the Clerk to the Governing Body if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings. Next year the minutes will be also available on the School's website.

How you can contact the Governing Body

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

Governing Body Members During 2017/2018

Name	Category of Governor	Appointing Body	Appointed/ Term of Office	Statutory Committee Served On	Position of Responsibility	Business Interest	Attendance 2017-18
Eur Ing Hugh Mackay JP	Co-opted	School Governing Body	Jul 2018 – Jul 2022	-	Chair of Governors. Continue to improve Teaching and Learning Link. Single Central Record Link. Finance & Equalities Link.	Additional LA Governor & Chair of Governors at Pawlett Primary School.	8/8
Mrs Sue Owen	Local Authority	Somerset County Council	Oct 2014 – Oct 2018	Pay & Performance Review	Vice-Chair of Governors. Maths Attainment and Progress. Early Years Link. Pupil Premium Link.	Related to the School's Secretary/Finance Officer.	8/8
Mrs Paula Baker	Co-opted	School Governing Body	Apr 2017 – Apr 2021	-	Chair of Ethos Working Group.	Dunstan House Electrical – Director. SCC - Teacher	6/8
Mrs Helen Bond	Elected Staff	School Staff	Feb 2018 – Feb 2022	-	Training Governor. Health & Safety, Security, Extended Schools, Sports Link.	Nil	6/8
Mrs Faye Coombes	Co-opted	School Governing Body	Oct 2014 – Oct 2018 Resigned March 2018	-	Child Protection & Children Looked After Link. Develop the Skills of all Children Link (incl SEND).	Nil	4/4
Mrs Emma Garbett	Elected Parent	School Parents	Nov 2017 – Nov 2021 Resigned March 2018	-	Reading and Writing Attainment and Progress.	Proprietor of Adventure Babies.	2/2

Name	Category of Governor	Appointing Body	Appointed/ Term of Office	Statutory Committee Served On	Position of Responsibility	Business Interest	Attendance 2017-18
Mrs Sam Piers	Elected Parent	School Parents	May 2018 – May 2022 Resigned July 2018			Nil	1/1
	Elected Parent	School Parents					
Mrs Rosemary Keele	Foundation	Diocesan Board of Education, advised by Parish of Three Saints' PCC	June 2015 – June 2019	Pay & Performance Review	Chair of Pay & Performance Review Committee. Collective Worship Link.	Nil	7/8
Mrs Kim Wilcox	Foundation	Diocesan Board of Education, advised by Parish of Three Saints' PCC	Oct 2015 – Oct 2019 (Co-opted Dec 2014 – Oct 2015)	Pay & Performance Review	Further Improve Communication with Parents and Carers Link. Termly Monitoring of SIAMS Criteria Link.	Nil	8/8
Denise Kinder	Co-opted	School Governing Body	July 2018 – July 2022			Nil	1/1
	Co-opted	School Governing Body					
	Co-opted	School Governing Body					
	Elected Parent	School Parents					

Name	Category of Governor	Appointing Body	Appointed/ Term of Office	Statutory Committee Served On	Position of Responsibility	Business Interest	Attendance 2017-18
Rev Simon Lewis	Foundation (Priest in Charge)	Diocesan Board of Education	Feb 2010 - Resigned April 2018	-	-	Nil	Nil
Mr Chris Burman	Headteacher	School Governing Body	April 2014	-	-	Nil	8/8
Mrs Lisa Lodge	Clerk to the Governors	School Governing Body	March 2016	-	Non-voting	Nil	8/8