



Be . Build . Become

26th September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Volunteers,

The Full Governing Board met on 19th September 2023 for our first meeting of the new academic year; at the meeting, the minutes of our meeting on 18th July 2023 were approved and are now available on the [Governors' page of the school](#) website along with other useful information about governance at your school.

At the meeting governors discussed the positive atmosphere in school at the start of term and the fantastic team spirit – a testament to this is the fact that this term we have 15 clubs available for our pupils, we are also seeing a significant increase in parental involvement with the school which is fantastic.

Governors reviewed and approved the School Evaluation Form (which summarises the school's strengths and development areas) and the School Development Plan (which outlines the priorities this year for Mrs Marshall and her leadership team) as well as reviewing the funding strategies for Pupil Premium Service, Sports and SEND Funding – Governors approved all plans and were pleased that there are now clear high expectations across the school for every pupil and that we now have the leadership, team and resources to deliver the best education for our pupils.

During the meeting, governors reviewed the latest pupil attendance figures which we know colleagues and parents/carers have been working hard to improve. As I am sure you will know good attendance has a clear link to what pupils achieve in school with a 2016 DfE reporting noting: *Missing school for just a few days a year can damage pupils' chances of gaining good GCSEs.*

Children who miss school may:

- Struggle to keep up with schoolwork. In a busy school day, it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up.

Governors would ask for all parents/carers and staff to continue their support in improving school attendance for the benefit of our pupils.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are in critical need of new governors to join our board; we have two parent governor vacancies. If you would like to find out more information or nominate yourself for a position, please view the governor vacancy information on the [governance page](#) of the school website and complete the Google Form using the link below by **15th October 2023**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtmjLB0s3eNxL9HUE2EPJIZu0OBcUguduVMAesTghiAholOg/viewform?usp=sf_link

It is really important that we have these positions filled and have a diverse Governing Board with a good range of skills and experiences this will ensure that our governance is robust and sustainable and that the school will continue to develop and improve. I know that not everyone will be aware of what governors do and so I hope the below will be of use:

A governor is a volunteer who gives their time to oversee the long-term development of the school. The three primary areas a governor is involved in are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money has the maximum impact on our pupils

This means undertaking different tasks including attending Full Governing Board meetings, meetings with the Headteacher and leadership team, monitoring visits/learning walks around the school, conducting document reviews and data scrutiny, and creating governor monitoring reports to share insights and learning.

Being a governor is an incredibly valuable experience, it is a unique opportunity to give something back to the community and further develop your own skills and experiences which could also benefit your own professional development and career progression.

As a reminder if you are a parent/carer and have any concerns or things you would like to discuss then you should speak to your child's class teacher. If you wish to make a formal complaint, then you should do so in accordance with our [Complaints Procedure](#). If you are a staff member and have a concern or a complaint, then you should discuss this with a member of the SLT.

We know that it takes a whole community to raise a child and so your continued support and engagement is key to achieving success for the children. As the school community, we all have a common goal *to ensure our school is the very best it can be, that our children are happy, love school, thrive and leave our school as well-rounded individuals ready to face the challenges ahead.* As such we must be role models for the children and every day through our actions and behaviours live up to our school Christian values.

If you would like to know more about governance at your school or would like to contact me, please email me on: chair@bloxham-pri.oxon.sch.uk

Best wishes,



Kevin Moyes
Chair of Governors