

# Bloxham CE Primary School



**Be . Build . Become**

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Volunteers,

The Full Governing Board met on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024; at the meeting, the minutes of our meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were approved and are now available on the [Governors' page of the school website](#) along with useful information about governance at your school.

The purpose of the meeting was to reflect on and evaluate the progress the school has made this year in driving school improvement (including a focus on the impact of governance) and to ensure adequate plans are in place for the new academic year to continue our positive journey.

Governors at Bloxham C.E Primary School provide strategic leadership and accountability. Amongst many other things, we hold the primary responsibility for the outcomes for the pupils and areas such as finance, where we work with Mrs Marshall to make the right decisions for the pupils. Each governor is a Governing Board member, which is established in law as a corporate body. We cannot act independently; decisions are the joint responsibility of the Governing Board.

The role of the Governing Board is a strategic one; its key functions are to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards the achievement of its aims and objectives.
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

There are two key documents which help guide the governors in holding the school leadership team to account for school improvement. These are the School Self-Evaluation Form (SEF), which defines the current position of the school in terms of strengths and areas for improvement according to the Ofsted headings; and the [School Development Plan](#), which sets out the actions to be taken to ensure that these areas for improvements are tackled. Mrs Marshall prepares both documents, which are scrutinised, and agreed upon by the Governing Board based on their knowledge of the school and then used as the basis of which the leadership team can be held to account. These are live documents and updated frequently as the school evolves, coming to the Full Governing Board each time for discussion and approval.

Several techniques are deployed to ensure accountability, these include challenging/holding Mrs Marshall and Leaders to account at governor meetings, conducting governor monitoring visits of the school when teachers and pupils can be questioned, reviewing external visit reports and seeing children's work to gather evidence that objectives set out in the [School Development Plan](#) are being met. The areas that governors have been focusing on are varied and numerous, but our 2023-2024 [School Development Plan](#) targets (which governors have held the school leadership team to account for) included areas under the following headings:

- Quality of Education
- Behaviour and Attitudes
- Personal Development
- Leadership and Management
- Early Years

In addition, governors had the following 2023-2024 objectives:

- Ensure Governance is impactful, robust, and sustainable
- Ensure the Full Governing Board contributes towards rapid school improvement
- Governor Community Engagement is impactful, and the community works together under a clear vision, ethos and values set
- School Promotion, Pupil Growth and Sustainability (in collaboration with the Headteacher)

Governors must also consider practical affairs that underpin the school's activities. This includes finance. We faced the year with a challenging financial position. However, with prudent management by the leadership team and Mrs McKenna our School Business Manager, and strong oversight by governors, we have been able to ensure money is spent on the areas needed to positively impact our pupils whilst at the same time balancing the budget over the agreed LA budget period. This has also been helped by the FoBPS, and parents who have attended events etc and so a big thank you. However, the key to our future success in improving our budget will be to continue to increase pupil numbers. The leadership team and governors will make a concerted effort to publicise and promote our school. We would ask you to help in sharing good news about our school with your family, friends and networks.

This year the Governing Board has met 8 times (with several meetings including presentations from school leaders) and in addition to attending various events, have undertaken over 30 monitoring activities including in-school visits to monitor areas such as safeguarding, inclusion, staffing, health and safety and teaching and learning. In addition, the Governing Board had oversight of the monitoring reports from external visits (of which there were more than 10 this year), including the Local Authority School Improvement Team (including full school reviews and safeguarding audits). These monitoring visits enable insightful reports to be produced, thereby enabling the full Governing Board to hold the Headteacher and the leadership team to account for the achievement of our [School Development Plan](#) and pupil progress.

This year leaders and colleagues in school have worked incredibly hard to deliver the actions in the School Development Plan (so a big thank you from governors) and this has had a significant impact on the quality of education and experiences of our pupils. Based on our end of year Self Evaluation (which is evidence based), the Governing Board, School Leadership and Local Authority School Improvement Team (who have shared very positive feedback with us), now rate the school as 'good' across all Ofsted areas which is a significant achievement for the whole school community. The Governing Board feel that the school has undergone a transformational journey in recent years which is making a real difference to the lives of our pupils and colleagues. We do of course acknowledge that there are still further areas where further improvements can be made, and these will form part of the new School Development Plan for the coming academic year.

In our meeting governors conducted a self-review of the effectiveness of Governance at Bloxham C.E Primary school and concluded that all statutory and best practice requirements of school governance have been met, we know our role as governors, and we hold our leaders to account for the quality of education that our school provides and ensure that they manage resources wisely. We are prepared to challenge when needed but also to celebrate when there is success.

We have a vacancy for a co-opted Governor – please help us to fill these by sharing the details on the [governance page](#) with family, friends, and any professional networks you have. It is important that we have these positions filled and have a 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.

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 our pupils; this year we have seen our school Christian values in action as they have been role modelled by our pupils, colleagues and parents/carers and this has made a tremendous difference so thank you all. Governors hope you all have a lovely summer, and we look forward to the new academic year together.

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](mailto:chair@bloxham-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Moyes', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Kevin Moyes**  
**Chair of Governors**