

22nd May 2023

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Volunteers,

I recently joined the Governing Board at Bloxham C.E Primary School and have now been elected as your Chair of Governors. I have been a governor since 2012, and I am currently the Chair of Governors Five Acres Primary School in Bicester, Carterton Primary School, and Gateway Primary School in Carterton. In total I have been the Chair of Governors at ten primary schools in Oxfordshire (many have been church schools) where I have helped to deliver rapid school improvement. I also carry out governor training for Oxfordshire's Governor Services. I became a governor because I had a very poor primary school education and he wanted to ensure that other children did not have the same experience, because I know first-hand the challenges this creates. I am also the Director of People and Culture for an International Charity which supports Ocean Conservation and Livelihoods for some of the poorest communities in the world. Paul Manders has now moved back to his Vice Chair role until the end of July 2023 at which point an election will be held for the position.

The Full Governing Board met on 11th May 2023; at the meeting, the minutes of our meeting on 9th February 2023 and 27th April 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.

During the meeting governors discussed the school's 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.

Governors were pleased to review the recent Local Authorities' School Improvement Lead's note of visit as well as a visit report from external early years specialist supporting our school which demonstrated that improvements are continuing to be made which are positively impacting on our pupils. Throughout the meeting based on the evidence and discussions with the Headteacher, it was clear that good progress is being made against our School Development Plan Objectives.

It was also positive for governors to hear about the work to revise and share the new Home School Agreement with parents and Carers and that class assemblies have started again, and we have the school fete coming up on 16th June 2023 both of which governors will attend as part of our monitoring role and to connect with the community. Governors also discussed the work underway to look at our vision and values as a school; more will follow on this once, we have a clear plan for this important piece of work.

Governors also gave thanks at the meeting for the incredible hard work and dedication of staff members who are striving to deliver improvements within our school for the benefit of our pupils.

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.

Governors appreciate that we have members of our community and school staff who will have friendships and relationships which at times can make things difficult in terms of professional and personal boundaries. Governors would therefore respectfully ask for support in ensuring that where relevant, information is kept confidential because in my experience often if it is not, it can cause undue upset and worry for pupils and the wider community and where such information is personal can have wider consequences for those sharing it.

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