

Bloxham CE Primary School



Be. Build. Become

18th July 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Volunteers,

As we come to the end of the school year I wanted to share an end of year governor update with you.

Last Full Governing Board Meeting of the School Year

- The Full Governing Board met on 15 July 2025. During this meeting, the minutes from our previous meeting on 19 May 2025 were formally approved. These, along with other useful information about governance, are now available on the [Governors' section of the school website](#).
- All approved Governing Board minutes, as well as additional governance information and access to non-confidential documents, can be found on the [school's governance webpage](#).
- The primary focus of the July meeting was to reflect on the school's progress over the past academic year in advancing school improvement. The Board also considered the impact of governance on this progress and reviewed the school's plans to ensure continued development and success in the year ahead. The Board confirmed that robust strategies are in place to support this trajectory.
- Governors and the Local Authority (LA) agreed that the school has had a very strong year. This is reflected in positive feedback from staff and parents, gathered through recent surveys. In addition, the LA has confirmed that the school is no longer classified as a "strategy school," indicating that the high-level support previously provided by the LA is no longer deemed necessary.
- The Board also discussed the recent Ofsted visit. This provided a valuable opportunity for Governors, leaders, and staff to showcase the excellent work taking place and the significant improvements achieved. Unfortunately, due to the timing of the inspection at the end of term, it is unlikely that the Ofsted report will be available before September.

Role of Governors at Bloxham C.E Primary School

- At Bloxham C.E Primary School the Governing Board provides strategic leadership and accountability to support the success and wellbeing of all pupils. Governors are responsible for overseeing key aspects of school performance, including pupil outcomes and financial stewardship. While we work closely with Mrs Marshall and the leadership team, decisions are made collectively. As established in law, the Governing Board is a corporate body, and no governor acts independently. All decisions are the joint responsibility of the Board.

Our Strategic Role

- The Governing Board's role is strategic, not operational. Our core functions are to:
 - Ensure clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
 - Monitor and evaluate progress towards the school's aims and objectives
 - Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure money is well spent
- To fulfil this role effectively, governors rely on two key documents:
 - **The Self-Evaluation Form (SEF):** This outlines the school's current strengths and areas for development, structured around Ofsted's inspection framework.
 - **The School Development Plan (SDP):** This details the specific actions the school will take to address areas for improvement.
- Both documents are prepared by Mrs Marshall, reviewed and agreed upon by the Governing Board, and regularly updated as the school evolves. They are living documents and are brought to the Full Governing Board for review and discussion throughout the year.

How Governors Hold the School to Account

- Governors use a variety of methods to ensure accountability and monitor progress, including:
 - Scrutinising leadership decisions during governor meetings
 - Undertaking focused monitoring visits to observe teaching and learning in action and speak with staff and pupils
 - Reviewing children's work to assess the impact of the SDP
 - Evaluating external reports and feedback from independent visits
- In 2024–25, governors supported and held the school leadership team accountable for progress against the following School Development Plan priorities:
 - Curriculum development
 - Personal Development including British Values
 - Behaviours and attitudes
 - Leadership and Management
 - Early Years and Foundation Stage

- In addition, the Governing Board worked towards the following governance objectives:
 - Ensuring governance remains impactful, robust, and sustainable
 - Contributing to rapid school improvement
 - Strengthening community engagement through a clear and shared vision, ethos, and values
 - Supporting school promotion, pupil growth, and long-term sustainability, in collaboration with the Headteacher

Financial Oversight and Sustainability

- Governors also play a crucial role in ensuring the school's financial stability. Despite facing continued financial challenges this year, prudent management by the leadership team—together with strong oversight by the Governing Board—has enabled us to maintain a balanced budget over the agreed Local Authority period. We remain committed to ensuring that resources are directed where they can make the greatest impact on pupils.
- We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the FoBPS for their ongoing fundraising efforts, which have helped to support this work. We encourage any parents who may be interested in getting involved to contact the team on fobps@mail.com . Your support makes a real difference.
- Looking ahead, increasing pupil numbers remains critical to the school's future sustainability. Governors and school leaders will be working proactively to promote Bloxham CE Primary School, and we warmly invite all members of our community to help share the many positive stories and achievements of our school with friends, family, and networks.

Impact of Governance – End of Year Reflections

- Over the course of the academic year, the Full Governing Board met on eight occasions. Several of these meetings included detailed presentations from school leaders, during which governors posed probing and constructive questions to ensure clarity, rigour, and accountability.
- In addition to formal meetings, governors have engaged in a wide range of monitoring activities. These included over 25 in-school visits to focus on key areas such as safeguarding, inclusion, staffing, health and safety, and the quality of teaching and learning. The Governing Board also reviewed and evaluated reports from many external monitoring visits, including those conducted by the Local Authority School Improvement Team. These external engagements covered full school reviews as well as specific audits in safeguarding and health and safety.
- These monitoring activities provided governors with valuable insights and evidence, enabling the Board to effectively hold Mrs Marshall and the school leadership team to account for the delivery of the School Development Plan and the progress of all pupils.

- We would like to take this opportunity to thank the school's leadership and staff team for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Their efforts to deliver the priorities set out in the School Development Plan have made a positive impact on the quality of education and the experiences of our pupils. We also recognise that some areas still require further development, and these will be addressed as part of the new School Development Plan for the upcoming academic year.
- As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the Governing Board also undertook a self-review to evaluate the effectiveness of governance at Bloxham CE Primary School. We concluded that all statutory and best practice requirements have been met. Governors have a strong understanding of our strategic role, we effectively hold leaders to account for educational outcomes, and we ensure that financial and other resources are managed responsibly and we support the relentless drive for continuous school improvement. We are committed to reflective practice—challenging ourselves as well as celebrating progress and success where it is due.
- Finally, we were pleased to learn about the new families who have recently joined our school community. On behalf of the Governing Board, we extend a very warm welcome and look forward to working together to support every child at Bloxham C.E Primary School.

Thank you

- We believe it takes a whole community to help every child thrive—and your continued support and engagement are vital to our shared success. This year, we've seen our [school values](#) come to life through the actions of our pupils, staff, and parents/carers. Your contributions have made a meaningful and lasting impact—thank you.
- As our Year 6 pupils prepare to take their next exciting step to secondary school, we send them our warmest wishes for the future.
- We hope you all enjoy a well-deserved, restful summer, and we look forward to starting a new academic year together with renewed energy and shared purpose.

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