



Be . Build . Become

'Encourage one another and build each other up.' Thessalonians 5:11

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Volunteers,

The Full Governing Board met on Thursday 17 September for our first meeting of the new school year. It was an opportunity to reflect on the progress made during 2025–26 and, importantly, to look ahead at how the school will continue to build on this during the year ahead.

There have also been some changes to the Governing Board. Kevin Moyes has stepped down after four years as Chair and, on behalf of the whole governing body, I would like to thank him for his significant contribution to Bloxham CE Primary. I am delighted to have taken on the role of Chair and look forward to continuing to work closely with Sarah, the staff team, governors and our wider school community.

As governors, our work centres on three core responsibilities: ensuring the school has a clear vision and strategic direction; holding leaders to account for educational performance; and overseeing the school's financial performance. Our September meeting considered all three.

Vision and strategic direction

Governors reviewed the school's updated self-evaluation and School Development Plan for 2026–27. Last year saw significant refinement of the curriculum and assessment approaches across the school. These developments, including the work shared with Ofsted during our last inspection, are now established and will continue to be embedded consistently across classes and subjects during 2026–27.

Our Christian vision, “Encourage one another and build each other up,” and our iCATCH values continue to underpin this work and our ambition for every child.

Governors were also delighted to hear about the introduction of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) and the school's wider focus on outdoor learning, physical activity, relationships and wellbeing. We look forward to seeing this exciting work become increasingly embedded across the school.

Governors also discussed the school's Open Days and the work underway to showcase Bloxham to prospective families and ensure that our wider community understands all that the school has to offer.

Educational performance and school improvement

There was much to celebrate in the school's end-of-year outcomes. 84% of children achieved a Good Level of Development at the end of Reception, alongside substantial improvements in

phonics and the Year 4 multiplication check. Governors will continue to monitor achievement closely, particularly the progress of disadvantaged pupils, pupils with SEND and other vulnerable groups.

This year we are also developing the way governors see the school's work first-hand. Governors have always met with leaders and staff as part of their monitoring responsibilities. We will now replace some staff presentations at formal meetings with opportunities for governors to visit classrooms, look at children's work and talk directly with teachers.

This will give all teachers the opportunity to showcase the progress their pupils are making and the work taking place within their subject areas, while enabling governors to see how consistently the school's curriculum and approaches are embedded in everyday practice.

Governors also received the safeguarding report covering the period since our previous meeting. Governors do not receive information identifying individual children or families; our role is to scrutinise themes, patterns and the school's response. This continues to provide governors with assurance that Bloxham has a strong safeguarding culture, robust procedures and well-established pastoral support.

Financial performance and use of resources

Governors reviewed the school's financial position and have established regular monitoring against the agreed budget throughout the year.

We also considered how the school can make the best use of its resources and facilities. This includes developing community use of the new hall, which is already generating additional income for the school, alongside ensuring that staffing and resources continue to be deployed effectively to support pupils.

Strengthening our Governing Board

We currently have two vacancies for co-opted governors and are keen to bring together a broad range of skills, experiences and perspectives. If you might be interested in finding out more, or know somebody who could make a positive contribution to Bloxham, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

As governors, we are fortunate to see just how much work takes place every day to make Bloxham a place where children can flourish. Thank you to our staff, parents, carers, volunteers and wider community for the part you play in this.

If you would like to know more about governance at Bloxham CE Primary, please visit the Governors' section of the school website or contact me at chair@bloxham-pri.oxon.sch.uk.

With warm regards,

Steve Craggs

Chair of Governors