

Annual Governance statement of Partney Church of England Primary School September 2018

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Board of Governors 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
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements

The Board of Governors is made up of one local authority governor, 2 parent governors, 2 staff governors including the headteacher, 7 foundation governors, 1 co-opted governor and an associate governor.

The full Board of Governors generally meets five times per year. We also operate several sub-committees. The Finance and Staffing Committee meets at least termly as does the Pupils and Curriculum Committee. The Scrutiny committee meet at strategic data points to ensure that the milestones are achieved. In addition, the Chair has very regular meetings with the headteacher to consider any matters arising.

All governors take on specific governor responsibilities. These can be found on the school website or ask at the school office for a list.

Governor work this academic year

- Two new Governors joined the team. Both have a skill to enhance the existing governing body. Mrs Oliver has previous governor experience along with a background in EYFS. Rev McLaughlin as well as supporting our Church school distinctiveness also has previous knowledge around HR.
- A scrutiny committee was formed to allow the governors to focus purely on the statistical data and to allow them to see trends that they can discuss with the Headteacher. This also links in with pupil progress so that we can ensure that all children are making good progress.
- The sub committees have been merged to form two which links in better with each other and allow the meetings to be more productive.
- Our associate governor who has over 30 years' experience of governance, has shown the governing body how to challenge the Headteacher, to ensure that we have a clear understanding of what is happening. Our meeting minutes reflect this.
- Governors attended a twilight session to focus on the school's vision and ethos to ensure that our values reflect the school.
- Attendance at meetings and training has been excellent this last year. Governors have given their time freely to ensure that their skills are current. A governor has been allocated to training so that it can be checked that the correct courses have been completed.
- One of the requirements of governance is that we oversee the financial position of the school. A training event was held so that the school's budget could be understood. This makes the finance and staffing meetings more focused.
- Visits have been a focus this last academic year. The teaching staff have all undergone training and are focusing on their middle leadership roles. Governors have been aligned to each staff member so that they can see the effectiveness of this. This close working has encouraged a greater depth of knowledge and understanding in the governors. Leaders were challenged during the Ofsted report around accountability. This merging of staff and governors allows this to happen.
- The HMIC have carried out a monitoring visit and were pleased with what they witnessed. This has meant that we are now looking to move

forward as we have addressed the concerns that Ofsted had, and are now moving forward with a Self-evaluation plan. All staff and governors are keen that the momentum of change keeps going and that our children get the very best education that they deserve.

This last year we had two of our foundation governors retire, Mrs Brocklehurst and Mr Hudson. Both had served the school for many years for which we are extremely grateful. Mr Hudson was involved in the school right from the start, so I think we can all agree that he deserves to retire!

Sue Kay our Headteacher has remained focused and determined during this last year. No matter what situations arise her main concern is always that of the children and their education. She works incredibly long hours and I know that whilst writing this she would be saying that this is her job. I do feel however, as do all the governors that she should be thanked for all her hard work and dedication. Sue has been instrumental in developing the new school frontage. Not only does it look impressive, but it serves to reduce traffic congestion making it a safer place for our children. Our new pre-reception has just started and again this was an idea from the Headteacher. This is an exciting new addition to the school and one we look forward to seeing develop over the coming years.