

Bury CE Primary School

Governor Newsletter

Autumn 2017



Welcome to our Governor's newsletter. Its purpose is to keep you informed of the work of the Local Governing Body (LGB) in support of the school. The LGB currently consists of:

Foundation Governors

Mr John Hayes (Chair)
Mr Roger Taylor
Mrs Rebecca Orpwood-Price
Mr Peter Buxton
Mr David Casey
Mrs Fiona Cameron
Mrs Marie Pidoux
Reverend Garry Dawson-Jones

Parent Governors

(elected by other parents)
Mr Simon Marsland
Mrs Bethan Vaghela

Co-Opted Governors

Mr Peter Hazell (Vice Chair)
Mr Stephen Cullen

Staff Governors

Miss Emma Heanes (Headteacher)
Mr Andrew Westcott

Clerk to the Governors

Mrs Jan Galloway

John Hayes – Chairman

Just over a year ago the school received a 'good' rating from OFSTED and were encouraged by comments from the inspector to press on towards an outstanding grade which she considered was achievable.

The Head, staff and governors were delighted with the results in July from the SATS tests as the level reached was above the national average. This reflects the work done throughout the school from reception to year six over the period of the children's learning.

The role of Bury School governors is to encourage and support the whole school as they maintain and strive to improve the high standards that are set. There are no specific qualifications other than a desire to be part of the team that seeks to see our children achieve the best they can during their time at Bury School. Governors are encouraged to attend training sessions to assist in their roles. We meet as a full governing body and are also asked to sit on one or two other sub-committees to discuss the work in the school. Where necessary we will challenge, through the Head, where we consider this is required.

The governors have expressed concern over the lunchtime catering as a result of comments made by parents. A new provider has been found and they commenced catering for the school this term.

The school is now able to offer a morning club using external providers. This club commenced from the start of this term, we trust this will be supported in order to make it viable.

If you speak to any of the governors I am sure that they will say that the work is very rewarding. Governors are linked with year groups, make visits to the school and support the class teachers.

The Standards & Ethos Committee

(Chair: Stephen Cullen)

The role of the Committee has been to review, scrutinise and promote the academic standards of all the children, whilst ensuring that the Christian values and ethos of the school help develop children for the wider world.

The Committee met 5 times during the academic year. At the start of the academic year the Committee identified the key areas from the school development plan falling under its remit. The key areas were: improve standard and progress in writing; the quality of teaching; the needs of pupils with special educational needs or Pupil Premium are fulfilled; and to further strengthen the Christian ethos of the school. The Committee also reviewed the 2016 results across all year groups against national expectations.

The school is visited on a regular basis by Ely Diocese, who as the employer of the Multi Academy Trust, look at all aspects of teaching and learning and the quality of teaching. In addition, the school was also visited by the Department of Education looking at a number of schools across the Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust (DEMAT) and examining the relationship between the schools and DEMAT and the progression schools were making.

As part of the literacy visit, data on pupil progress was examined. This together with termly reporting for each year group for Maths, Reading and Writing shows the progress being made against the targets that have been set. This builds upon the work that was done in the previous academic year with the introduction of the new assessment system. This information has been invaluable in helping the Committee scrutinise the progress being made by the school. The Committee also looked at how the school moderated its progress and results to ensure consistency and accuracy. A numeracy visit looked at the introduction of a "hot and cold tasks" initiative, to show the progression made by pupils.

A number of policy documents have been reviewed during the course of the year, such as feedback and marking, presentation, art and English to list a few.

A number of visits were made by the school over the year to Bury church and also to other places of worship both Christian and of other faiths. The school continues to develop a strong and active relationship with Bury church.

The Finance, Estates & Personnel Committee

(Chair: Roger Taylor)

The work of the FEP Committee is to oversee the use of all the resources of the school and the maintenance of the buildings and grounds. This includes both the financial resources and the human resources (staff). The committee met once each term in the last academic year to review the financial position of the school and to ensure that finances are maintained within the budgets set at the beginning of the year. Any material changes from agreed budgets are

discussed fully by the committee and reports are made to the full governing body. At the date of this report, all items of income and expenditure were on track to meet the 2016/17 budget albeit this was set within very tight funding constraints.

The chair and a second member of the committee have met with the Headteacher and Office Manager to build a balanced budget for the forthcoming year, which has been presented to the DEMAT who have the final responsibility for the finances of all schools in the Trust. The committee seek to obtain value for money within the overriding aim of ensuring that resources are used for the maximum benefit of all pupils. The committee monitor the use of funds earmarked for specific purposes, in particular, pupil premium and sports premium monies to ensure the effectiveness of outcome from these funds.

The committee is consulted regarding current and future staffing needs in order to assess the potential effects on the school's budget as staffing costs make up the overwhelming majority of all schools' budgets. In the well publicised current school funding situation the committee has carefully examined the budgets for future years based on the anticipated school roll to ensure that any potential cost savings on non staff areas are made so as to minimise the effect of any reduced funding on the teaching and learning of the pupils.

Regular reports on the condition of the premises and equipment are received by the Committee and decisions taken to ensure that these are maintained to a good standard and any health and safety issues are addressed promptly. Long term requirements are planned to ensure a rolling programme of maintenance and improvement.

Finally, the committee receives regular Health & Safety and Safeguarding updates from the Headteacher and the governor with responsibility for this area who makes regular visits to the school and reports back to the committee. Action has been taken during the year to address any issues raised.

Finally...

We hope that you have found this letter informative and we would welcome any feedback that you might be able to offer. As Governors we thank you for your support of the school and look forward to this continuing. Thank you also to all the Governors for the work that they do throughout the year.