



News From
YOUR GOVERNORS



**Bishop Carpenter
CE Primary School**
Warriner Multi Academy Trust

Spring Update



As we hear the news that Primary Schools may begin to open again in June, albeit with limited year groups, I would like to say a huge "Thank You" to Mrs Stevenson and her team for their work so far in keeping BCS together throughout the lockdown.

Since my last update, we have been fortunate enough to have gained two new members of the local governing body; Abi and Carol. Carol joined a few months back but Abi has had a rather unusual introduction to our procedures, having joined just before the lockdown hit! Welcome to Abi and Carol!

Keep safe and well, Sue

Why do we have Governors?

We must have a Governing Body by law. Governance is about overseeing the success of the school. It is about agreeing priorities and monitoring progress towards them, such as, by scrutinising data and visiting the school. It is about looking over the horizon and mitigating any risks.

To do this, governors receive training from the WMAT and external bodies. They also have DBS checks.

It is a "strategic" role, not an operational one. It is not about running or managing the school – that is the job of the Head Teacher and senior staff. If you would like to become a BCS Governor, please email c.musgrove@warriner.oxon.sch.uk



Governing through the lockdown

Our activities have been very much reduced, with no face-to-face meetings nor ability to perform our school visits for oversight. That said, we are still here, and have met via Microsoft Teams for a review of Mrs Stevenson's approach to running the school during this period.

This included how she and her team are delivering learning for home schooling; what support is being given to parents and carers to help them. It also includes how the school continues to provide care for children who are vulnerable, children with EHCP plans, the children of key workers, and how it is monitoring their wellbeing and that of the staff. Mrs Stevenson also updated us on the Health and Safety aspects of school. Much of our Governor training is already online. Once we return to "normal", we will be able to resume those other responsibilities and I will keep you informed of our progress.

Abi Craig



Hi, I'm Abi Craig. I have two children currently attending Bishop Carpenter School Amilia (Class 4) & Alivia (Class 3).

I decided to become a governor because I wanted to help support the school. I enjoy new challenges and learning new skills so becoming a governor felt like a great opportunity to learn whilst making a difference to our children and their educations.

Health & Safety – Chris Hutchins

At our online governor meeting, we had discussions around social distancing and heard that the school Staff are following the strict guidelines laid out by the government.

All other H&S matters were in hand prior to lockdown.



Carol Wild



I live in North Newington and my daughter Rose is in reception. I also have 3 older children who all attended Bishop Carpenter School. Dorothy is about to go into Year 9 at Warriner, Noah into year 13 at Kinton School and Anna has just finished her first year at The University of Manchester. Though schools are always changing Bishop Carpenter has always been a place where my children have felt safe and it has given each of them so many happy memories and a great foundation for their future studies. Bishop Carpenter School has had a special place in our lives for many years! So how do you give back? Well, I do like to pop into school from time to time to volunteer my arty skills but how about being a governor!?! I was previously a governor at

the school before Rose was born but I have worked in education for almost 25 years (!) as a secondary Art and DT teacher and then running CPD for teachers in Higher Education. I currently work at the University of Warwick where I run an MA Professional Education course. My students are primary and secondary school teachers based in the UK and countries around the world. I'm really passionate about empowering teachers because that ultimately leads to empowered children. I'm stepping into the diocesan governor position which is related to our position as a church school. It's rather humbling to think that the church has served this community for centuries through the school, being there through all kinds of ups and downs - including the current Coronavirus crisis. I can still hear a few children in the playground from my garden - a reminder that staff are continuing to work hard for us all. I look forward to hearing the whole school out at playtimes again!

Who Are Our Governors?

We all meet 6 times a year plus extras for school monitoring visits, training, H&S, SIAMS (Church inspection), safeguarding and – when they come - OFSTED. There is more information in our previous updates on the BCS website <https://www.bishopcarpenterschool.com/school-governors>



FAQ

Q: Where can I find school policies e.g., Behaviour Policy?

A: The Bishop Carpenter school website contains policies under: Information/documents and policies

Q: I have an issue with something and want to speak to the right person – who would that be?

A: It depends on the issue:

- Class or pupil related questions should be directed towards your class teacher
- Other operational issues (that relate to how the school is run) should be directed to the Head teacher, Mrs Stevenson who has an “open door” policy.
- If you want to escalate an issue or make a formal complaint, you should email Catherine Musgrove, WMAT Clerk, at: c.musgrove@warriner.oxon.sch.uk

With best wishes from us for you and your family