



News From YOUR GOVERNORS

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

Spring Update



I hope that these updates are giving you a clearer idea of what Governors need to do.

If this appeals to you, you can get more information from Catherine Musgrove, WMAT clerk, at c.musgrove@warriner.oxon.sch.uk and be considered for any future vacancies.

Happy Easter, 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.

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.

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>



Mrs Nichola Stevens...
Head Teacher



Mrs Sue Priest
Director appt Chair of
Governors



Mrs Michelle Jarvis
Vice Chair and Parent
Governor



Rev Ronald Hawkes



Mrs R Peverill
Staff Governor



Mr Chris Hutchins
ODBE appointed
Governor



Ms Luci Jordan
ODBE appointed
Governor



Mr Julian Woodward
Parent Governor



Mr James Taylor
ODBE appointed
Governor



Mrs Miriam Ager
ODBE appointed
Governor

Parent Voice

If you can find time to complete Mrs Stevenson's parent survey it would be very helpful for us all. As you can see from her email of 1st April, your concerns raised last time have resulted in her taking specific actions, so it is well worth taking the time to give your feedback: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GQ6H3B8>

Pulling Together for our Children

In my Winter update, I talked about the benefits I've found of our strong ties with others, but we also bring benefits as parents. You may remember on 8th March, the letter Mrs Stevenson sent regarding funding. This included the fact that, since 2010, school budgets have been reduced in real terms by 8%. As a parent of two girls at BCS as well as a governor, I want to do all I can to help shore up the income for our own school. Mrs Stevenson is diligent with keeping costs to a minimum; there is little more she can do.

Where does school income come from?

Our main source of income is the Government. Every child on the school roll attracts funding. The maximum funding will come in if we have a full school. Ideally, every new intake will have enough children to "fill our numbers". If, say, someone moves house and their child leaves BCS, any child whose parent wants to move them to our school can be considered.

What can we do, as parents, to help?

1. Encourage others to visit the school

You may know of someone keen to find a school, or a new school. Mrs Stevenson is always willing to show them around in case we fit the bill; this would help us keep as full as possible.

2. Support FoBCS and Easyfundraising

*We are incredibly fortunate to have FoBCS busy fundraising every term. We recently looked at Easyfundraising – when we discovered thanks to Louise, that FoBCS had set one up years ago. If you would like to help raise money **it doesn't cost you anything**; the school gets a percentage of donation from the shop (eg Ebay) as long as you go through the link. Jacqui sent out a note recently - here is the direct link to that account:*

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bishopcarpe-nterpta/>

3. Use the Hall for your party

If you didn't know, you can hire the school hall for a reasonable price – ask Mrs Davies for details.

4. Tell us your ideas

Miriam is looking at new ongoing revenue streams to bring more cash into the school such as PV panels to reduce electricity costs, so *if you have any ideas for events / structural fundraising please contact Louise (gavandlouarmstrong@gmail.com) or Miriam (via me sue.priest@scienceclubz.com)*

We will check with Louise to see if any ideas which come to us should go through FoBCS. Thank you.

Caring about Health and Safety

Luci Jordan and Chris Hutchins

We have the responsibility of being the Health and Safety Governors; we have the overview of all things H&S.

We conduct a walk around the School with Mrs Davies once or twice a year to follow her H&S records and the regulations set out by law. Mrs Davies has mountains of paperwork and records and we simply look at it all with different eyes.

On the last walk around, for instance, we checked the fire equipment, who had been trained to use this equipment and to ensure there was a record of this and did a complete tour of the School with this in mind. We noted any slight problems and these are then acted on either immediately or within a few weeks or months.

Important things for the children are finger guards on doors, they are safe at School and they know what to do if there is a fire alarm. They are all very good at this and can be out of the School and in their designated places in under 2 minutes.

H & S may seem like a boring subject, but it is very important in the School life.



New Governors' First Impressions

Julian Woodward

As a new governor, and having attended my first two governor meetings, I've been struck by two things - both of which should perhaps be obvious.

Firstly, that there is quite a lot to learn, especially the jargon and acronyms, but also about the operational structures of the school and the MAT. And secondly that there is a clear and unwavering focus, exactly as there should be, on what the best course of action is to benefit the pupils and the school. It is an honour and a pleasure to be a part of this.



Miriam Ager

I was appointed a governor of BCS in November last year. Since then I have attended a new governors training course, which covered all aspects of the responsibilities of being a governor. Quite an eye opener it was too! Since then I had training on data scrutiny, which was invaluable in assisting me with the responsibilities of governor. On top of the critical friend role, I am working with the Chair of governors on new ways of creating income streams and pursuing ideas on a new alumni page for the school.



SIAMS Governance of Our Christian Activities *(Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)*

Rev Ronald Hawkes

We continue to support the worship group as the children grow in confidence and ability and have enjoyed imaginative and engrossing family services they have devised and led.

Godly play was offered to all classes once again and the children were amazingly quiet, attentive and thoughtful. **Be space** prayer experience is booked for the start of next term and we look forward to this becoming a regular part of the school's worshipping life.



Mrs Ruth Peverell

We have continued to try new things with the worship team and with worship throughout the school. We enjoyed the child led worship 'Bible's got bravery' and the family service led by Father Ronald where families were given the opportunity to sit together.



We have developed worship materials in class 3 further and children are now involved in creating the 'Holy Ground' for Class worship by choosing from a special box of 'accessories and display items'. The children have been really enthusiastic about this and have been bringing in their own items to add to the box! We are hoping to roll this out across the school over the next year.

We are looking forward to the visit from Be:Space who will be bringing reflective spaces and 'active' reflection into school. **We are still looking for volunteers if anyone is available on Tuesday 23rd and 24th April.**

We are also preparing for the Worship team to take our action prayers to the community through visiting Church in early May as part of the Sunday Service held by Father Ronald.

Governance and New Ofsted Framework

Last week, BCS Governors joined others from the WMAT to hear what impact the new OFSTED framework would have on our scrutiny activities. The proposed new Framework is a major change to how all state schools will be monitored and judged. It is scheduled to come into force in September 2019.



How will it differ from current Scrutiny?

Up until now, our scrutiny of school teaching performance has consisted of three components:

- examination of external data (results using external assessments)
- examination of internal data (results assessed by the teaching staff inside the school)
- visits Governors make to the school; mapped to the School Development Plan and written as reports

From September, based on the changes to the OFSTED inspections, Governors will focus on

- the curriculum – the intent, the implementation and the impact as well as
- the data (though OFSTED will look only at external data going forward)
- visits to the school will continue as before with the new curriculum scrutiny taken into account. OFSTED will also examine behaviour and personal development as separate items.

How will this impact schools?

OFSTED wants evidence that the curriculum is broad and educates the whole child with good understanding and rich subject knowledge to get them ready for the next part of their education, saying:

- on Intent: *“designed to give all learners, particularly the most disadvantaged, the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life”* and
- on Implementation: *“teaching is designed to help learners to remember in the long term the content they have been taught and to integrate new knowledge into larger concepts”*.
- on personal development: *“provides for learners’ broader development, enabling them to develop and discover their interests and talents”, “resilience, confidence and independence”*

Will BCS be affected?

Yes, however our children already have strong ethical and personal development support – both in terms of our Head's initiatives and in terms of the Christian values and activities led by Reverend Ronald Hawkes. The changes to the framework are in line with our school ethos, so we are in a good position to adopt them. You will find out more about how Mrs Stevenson will integrate this new framework, in practise, in the coming terms.

With best wishes to you all for a very happy and relaxing Easter break