



Summer Update



As we end the school year, I would like to share with you our progress as a governing body this past year, based on the outcomes of our recent Governance Review which we undertook on 9th July.

Best wishes for the summer, 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.

Governance Review Outcomes

Just over a year ago, when I took over as the Chair, I ran a review of how we conduct our activities using the Excellence in Governance Framework model. For each area, we looked at where we felt we could make improvements or changes for the better. Since then, we have started to work on this. Earlier this month, we reviewed our progress and here are the results:

How we operate: Working as a more effective team & using our skills in a targeted way (eg visits), listening, supporting each other/buddying. Keeping centrally accessible records. Our ethos will emphasise the Friend part of “critical friend”. We agreed to incorporate subcommittees to reduce duplication and free up 6 evenings for the Headteacher; we target our school visits to align with the School Development Plan. **RESULT:** we achieved these goals.

Our Governing Values: We will identify, celebrate and praise successes, give it more recognition. We will provide a backup for all staff. We will be the support “hands ready to catch”; protecting, nurturing. We will reach out more to staff/parents. **RESULT:** we recognise success more now in meetings and are responding to parents’ requests for intervention – though this is very rare; we are here when needed.

Decisions, Risks/threats: During the FGB we will celebrate successes including strengths from SWOT; and opportunities identified. We will identify and mitigate any risks or threats **RESULTS:** we are active in identifying and mitigating risks, and will continue to do so.

Developing Capability & Capacity: We will make it easier for Gobs to identify training they may want. We will identify best practise. **RESULTS:** we have developed our Governor Induction Pack which has been incorporated into the WMAT induction set. We have some excellent new Governors and are looking for another.

Engaging stakeholders: Parents: we will listen to parents’ views and concerns. Staff: we will more vocally praise and celebrate successes of staff. Other Stakeholders we will engage with eg Bretch Hill/Poets Corner. Alumni. **RESULTS:** the recent parent voice showed an improvement from last year and we want to build on this.

School Vision and Values from a Governor perspective: These words resonated with us: Safe, nurturing, celebrating success, valuing everyone, praise, developing the whole child. **RESULTS:** We remind ourselves at the start of each meeting, being mindful to focus on this as we discuss the issues at hand to make the most of our time.

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 and Chair of
Governors



Mrs Michelle Jarvis
Vice Chair and Parent
Governor



Rev Ronald Hawke



Mrs R Peverill
Staff Governor



Mr Chris Hutchins
ODBE appointed
Governor



Ms Luci Jordan
ODBE appointed
Governor



Mr Julian Woodward
Parent Governor



Mrs Miriam Ager
ODBE appointed
Governor

FAQ

Q: Where can I find school policies eg 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

Could you be a Governor?

Having a committed team working on oversight and accountability is vital to our school. We are on the lookout for someone to join us.

Being a Governor involves meetings 6 times a year, with reading and preparation for each, training 3-5 times a year, usually in the evenings or weekends, and school visits around 4 times a year.

Being comfortable with figures and graphs is important as we spend a lot of time looking at our school performance results, but we also need someone with ideas and an eye to the future.

If you are interested please email Catherine Musgrove, WMAT Clerk, at: c.musgrove@warriner.oxon.sch.uk

With best wishes from us for a relaxing and fun-filled Summer