



Chair of Governors' Autumn update

It has been a busy start to the school year for the Board of Governors as we have been agreeing the focus and priorities for this school year, reviewing the outcomes from last year and re-structuring our committees to ensure that we are appropriately set up to support the priorities. I am pleased to share this work with you.

2015/16 Focus and Priorities

One of our key responsibilities is to agree the School's Development Plan and to ensure its effective implementation by the Senior Leadership team, led by Andy Bowman. We have already completed this work and Andy will be sharing the updated plan with you early in Term 2. As in 2014/15, the Governors will be carefully monitoring the implementation of the plan through 'Learning Walks' on the various aspects of the plan and through our network of Link Governors who work alongside the staff curriculum leaders to advise on and challenge progress. Our target is for at least 85% of children to meet the new age related expectations in core subjects at the end of key stages one and two.

In line with the School Development plan we will be supporting the staff team in their focus to explore and embed the principles of 'mastery' into their approach to teaching and learning. Collective worship will focus on the 'The Golden Three' which will underpin our new behaviour policy, as well as beginning to promote and embed our Core values of Love, Courage, Creativity and Joy. We are due to have our next SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) in 2017 and will start preparing for this in 2015/16.

Managing within budget will remain a high priority and we are privileged to have a dedicated team in school, supported by Governors, to continue our excellent track record in this. Some other schools that we are aware of are operating with deficit budgets. Where opportunities arise we will also support capital projects that significantly enhance the environment and experience of our pupils.

Specifically with you in mind we have developed an on-line payment facility, led by a Governor and we will continue to support the possibility of an 'after school care club' and holiday club.

As a governing body we have agreed to reduce the number of Committees to three, to enable more stream-lined and efficient working. These are Pupil Support, Finance and Resources, and Standards. I plan to publish more details on these as we develop the new constitutions and members. We will also continue the work that we started last year on reviewing policies to ensure on-going statutory compliance and relevance for our school.

Thanks to the leadership and commitment of two of our governors we now have all the staff and governors on a common IT platform. This promotes more efficiency in our work as well as providing a more secure IT operating environment.

The Governors are committed to their own professional development to enable them to fully support the needs of school. Last year they collectively attended over 20 training and development programmes, as well as a number of networking events to exchange ideas with governors in other schools and local authority and diocesan colleagues. We are part of the East Bath cluster of schools and within this group we actively seek opportunities for effective collaboration and use of resources.

Governor vacancies:

We will shortly be advertising for two Parent Governors to join the Board of Governors. These voluntary roles have a four year tenure ship. In terms of commitment, there are two meetings in each of the six terms (one Full Governing Board and one sub-committee); responsibility for a curriculum area as a Link Governor; able to undertake one learning walk per year; and attendance at appropriate training programmes. There are also opportunities to lead or participate in working parties from time to time. Parent Governors are also very important in contributing to policy development and in ensuring that our policies are fit for purpose from a statutory, school and parent perspective.

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