



Bramley Church of England Primary School

Governors' report 2018-2019

For parents, carers, and all members of our school community

This report is not intended to be a complete account of the governing body's work over the year, but rather to give you a flavour of our approach, our work and our impact on the school.

1. Our governing body

Bramley Church of England Primary School Governing Body consists of the Executive Head, Head of School and 12 governors. There are two parent governors, a staff governor, a Local Authority governor, two Foundation governors and six co-opted governors. The governors' names are listed on the school website under 'Our community'. Two new governors have joined the governing body this year.

We also have an experienced professional clerk who supports the governing body in a range of ways including the administration of meetings and keeping the governing body informed about changes in regulations and guidance.

We have a good balance of skills and experience across the governing body, and all governors have undertaken a range of training for their roles. Training is ongoing and all governors are expected to be willing to learn and develop new skills so that they can make an active and contribution.

As a governing body we completed a self-evaluation in the autumn term and drew up an action plan as a result, giving us a number of specific areas to work on throughout the year. In this way we aim to develop our governance work each year, just as the leadership team develop the work of the school through the School Improvement Plan.

2. Functions of the governing body

In common with all school governance boards we have three core functions:

- *Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;*

- *Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and*
- *Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.*

3. Our achievements in the academic year 2018-2019

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

We have worked with the Executive Head Teacher and Head of School to foster and model a common culture and ethos across the school, based on our school vision and values. We have reviewed school policies to ensure these reflect the school values and ethos consistently, as well as meeting all our statutory requirements.

We have planned and carried out over 30 visits during the year – including visits to observe Collective Worship, and attending services at Christmas and Easter, and the Leavers’ Services in St James Church Bramley and in Winchester Cathedral. Other visits have focused on observing children’s behaviour at lunchtime and during outdoor play. The governors have written reports of their visits for discussion at governing body meetings, enabling us to engage in purposeful conversations and to suggest areas for improvement.

We have analysed the results of this year’s parents’ survey in detail and compared these to the results of previous surveys. Firstly, we were greatly encouraged by the response rate: 264 parents replied, representing the vast majority of families in the school.

Secondly, we were encouraged by the responses of parents to the survey questions. To highlight just a few: 93% of respondents said they would recommend this school; 96% said they considered the school to be well led and managed, with 64% strongly agreeing with this statement; 92% agreed that the teaching is good; 90% agreed that their child makes good progress.

In relation to behaviour, 82% agreed that the school deals effectively with bullying and 80% agreed that the school deals effectively with behaviour issues. This is a significant improvement on the results of the last survey, in October 2017, when 72% and 73% of parents agreed with these statements.

Thirdly, we noted carefully the areas that parents suggested could be improved, and we will continue to monitor progress in these – for example some aspects of children’s behaviour.

We are also working to improve our performance as governors, as parents highlighted that they did not know enough about our role. We have been taking steps to give parents more opportunities to meet us, for example by attending the New Entrant's meetings, and to provide more information about what we do by circulating regular newsletters, and issuing this report on our work.

Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff

Through a structured programme of meetings, the governing body has supported the school and held the leadership team to account for the day-to-day running of the school and for improving pupil and staff performance. We have held six Full Governing Body meetings, five meetings of the Curriculum and Standards Committee and six meetings of the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee over the course of the year. All governors belong to one or both of these committees. At these meetings we have examined school data, the School Improvement Plan and other reports, and asked challenging questions in order to hold school leaders to account.

For example we have asked: which groups of pupils are the highest and lowest performing, and why? Does the school have credible plans for addressing any less than expected progress? How will we know that things are improving? We have been encouraged to see from school results that the school is raising standards for all children, including the most and the least able, those with special educational needs and those who are disadvantaged.

We have examined data relating to attendance and behaviour, mindful of the importance of both good attendance rates and good behaviour, for learning. We have been encouraged to see improvements in both these areas, year on year.

We have also been encouraged to see the consistently high quality of the teaching and support staff team. The governing body is directly responsible for the Executive Head Teacher's performance management and we have a pay committee that oversees the performance management and pay awards for staff.

Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

The governing body has reviewed the school budget regularly throughout the year: we are responsible for overseeing the financial performance of the school. We have governors with a strong business background and others who have taken training to

understand the financial cycle and legal requirements of the school in relation to accountability and spending.

At our meetings we have considered questions such as: are resources allocated in line with strategic priorities? Does the school have a clear budget forecast which identifies spending opportunities and risks and sets out how these will be mitigated? Are the school's assets and financial resources being used efficiently? How can better value for money be achieved from the budget?

We have conducted regular Safeguarding and Health and Safety audits and other financial and site checks. Having completed a schools financial value standard (SFVS) audit we are satisfied that the school is on a sound financial footing and that public money is well spent. Examples of improvements we have been able to finance and carry out this year include the new landscaping, allotments, quiet outdoor area and the Year R Canopy, all of which have enhanced the children's outdoor experiences.

4. Conclusion

This has been a busy year for our school governors and we are grateful to the staff and children for the way they have welcomed us into school during the year as we have gone about our work. Seeing the amazing fundraising the school has done this year for our community, including raising money for Children in Need, NSPCC and Asthma UK, giving donations to the Basingstoke Foodbank and generous donations towards Oliver Warner's medical treatment, there is no doubt this school lives its values of Love, Respect and Courage to the full. We are proud to be part of it.

Our commitment to the children who belong to Bramley Church of England Primary School is central to all we do as governors, and we wish all our leavers well as they move on to their new schools in September. Having watched the Year 6 pupils perform their Leavers' Production of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' at The Anvil this month I am in no doubt at all that they are indeed 'resilient learners, ready for the future'.

Angela Adams, Chair of Governors
July 2019