



Bramley Church of England Primary School

Governors' report 2023/24

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 the 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, three Foundation governors and five co-opted governors. The governors' names are listed on the school website under 'Our community'.

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 2023/24

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.

In 2023/24, we continued our programme of visits, which consisted of the essential audits and checks (such as health and safety or behaviour and attendance) as well as visits focused on the curriculum and standards. Other visits, such as attending collective worship, are focused on the school's vision and values. 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.

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: How does the school meet the needs of all pupils? How does the school monitor poor attendance? How will we know that things are improving?

We have 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.

4. Conclusion

As always, 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.

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.

Kelly Taylor, Chair of Governors
July 2024