



St Barnabas C of E Primary School
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"Barnabas, the Encourager"

17th July 2020

St Barnabas CE Primary School Governors' Annual Report 2019/2020

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of this School Year, the Governors would like to thank you all for your continued support of the School.

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide the best possible education to children.

Governors are responsible for : -

- Setting the strategic direction and ensuring clarity of vision.
- Creating robust accountability. That is, holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the pupils and the effective performance of the staff.
- Overseeing the financial running of the School and making sure the money is appropriately spent.

The Governing Body at St Barnabas School is made up of parent, staff, foundation, local authority and co-opted governors. We are responsible for both the conduct of the School and for the promotion of high standards.

Governors are not responsible for the day-to-day running of the School.

The role of the Governing Body is a strategic one; its key functions are to:

- Work with the School community in setting the Vision and Values.
- Agree key priorities and objectives for the school around the Vision and Values.
- To ensure that the School works efficiently and effectively towards achieving the objectives, by monitoring progress.
- To ensure that the School provides a high quality education for all its pupils.
- Be a source of support and challenge to the Headteacher/Senior Leadership Team.

We aim to achieve this by meeting twice each term as a Full Governing Body. In these meetings, we focus on children's progress and achievements, school development, constructively challenging and identifying how we can further support St Barnabas School, and ensuring accountability and compliance.

During this academic year, we accepted two resignations for family reasons and a parent whose child was no longer at School. We also appointed a Foundation Governor and a Co-opted Governor and as St Barnabas Church appointed a Priest-in-Charge in April 2020, we welcomed him as an Ex-Officio Governor. We will also be electing a Parent Governor in the new academic year.

We have two committees, (Resources and Teaching & Learning) who meet 3 times a year, usually once a term. Each committee has Terms of Reference and is able to look at specific areas of the school in a bit more detail, reporting back to the Full Governing Body with Minutes.

The Resources Committee deals with all aspects of finance, premises, health and safety, etc. We must thank Sewell and our Site Manager for the upkeep of the School buildings and also thank the cleaning staff for all their hard work in the midst of the covid-19 crisis, along with the catering staff. Our designated Health and Safety Governor undertakes regular inspections of the site with Sewell and Miss Boardman and recommendations are acted upon.

The Teaching and Learning Committee focuses on the curriculum and involves subject leaders outlining how their subjects are progressing, linked to our School vision, values and objectives for the current academic year. These meetings allow discussion and questions to be asked and subject leaders challenged.

Two other committees (Pay and Headteacher Appraisal) meet once a year with the Chair of each committee meeting with Miss Boardman at the mid-point of the year to check progress against the set objectives.

A Steering Group meet once every half term to look at staffing, organisational issues and to review in more detail, the School Improvement Plan. Again, this group reports back to the Full Governor Meetings.

There are also statutory Governor roles for SEND and Safeguarding. Governors with these responsibilities carry out termly visits and report to the appropriate committee and also to the Full Governing Body.

Governors are encouraged to build a thorough knowledge of St Barnabas School and its community. This is achieved by having an annual monitoring session with Governors spending a morning or afternoon in School. This is always well attended and those Governors linked to a class group can spend time within the class, talking with the pupils and staff. Link Governors are then encouraged to come into School at least once more during the year to spend time with the class teacher delving further into pupil progress and to challenge and ask questions. All visits are followed up with a Governor Report which is shared and discussed as necessary at the Full Governors Meeting.

Reports have been positive showing improvement throughout the year in behaviour and pupil progress.

The local authority Governance service offer training throughout the year, both face to face and online which various members have accessed in the last Academic year. There are also Termly Governor Workshops led by the Local Authority.

However, this year the Governors have also had 2 bespoke training Sessions:

- a facilitated self-review resulting in an Action plan which is now incorporated into the School Improvement Plan, and
- a Diocesan training session with the School Staff to look at new vision and values for the School.

I cannot finish this report, without acknowledging the challenging circumstances nationally because of Covid-19, which has of course, dominated our actions as a School.

It has been a hugely emotional and exacting time for families, children and staff, but as a Governing Body, we want to express our thanks to Miss Boardman, the Senior Leadership Team and all the Staff for their tireless work and dedication in continuing to provide the best possible remote education and care for our pupils in these unprecedented times, as well as face to face education for the vulnerable, key worker and Early Years and Year 1 groups latterly.

As the 2019/2020 Academic Year ends, we want to wish those members of staff (and some pupils) who are moving on to new places and experiences, all the very best wishes and also to say, "Goodbye and every good wish" to our Year 6 pupils as they move into the new adventure of secondary school.

In finishing, I also want to thank you as families for delivering the remote education which has been offered and we look forward to continuing to work with you to provide the very best education for our children.

Wishing you a very happy and hopefully, restful, summer holiday.

Anne Williamson
Chair of Governors
St Barnabas School