



Barrington Church of England Primary School, ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024/25

The Core Functions of the Governing Body

- ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined;
- ensuring that the Headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school; and
- ensuring the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at the school throughout the course of the 2024/25 academic year.

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government allows for 12 governors across different categories.

Current membership: 12

Current vacancies: 0

Through the course of the academic year there have been several changes to the membership of the Governing Body. One foundation governor resigned and a replacement was recruited. The Chair's term as a parent governor ended and they moved into a vacant co-opted governor position. A new parent governor was recruited to fill the vacant position. One co-opted governor's term finished and they agreed to stand for another four year term. One co-opted governor will stand down at the end of the academic year, and recruitment for a replacement will start at the beginning of the 2025-26 academic year.

Chair: Nicky Rushton

Vice-Chairs: Claire Stoneham and Sharon Isaacs

Clerk: Helen Andrews

Attendance:

Attendance has been challenging for the Governors at Barrington Primary School this year. Although all have demonstrated commitment to the governing body, two governors have missed a significant number of meetings due to ill health, and one governor is on maternity leave. The two governors with ill health are now attending meetings again and the governor on maternity leave will return in the next academic year. In addition, the newly appointed foundation governor could

not attend many meetings due to diary clashes in their calendar when they were recruited but this is expected to improve for the forthcoming academic year.

The attendance record can be viewed on the governor's page of the school website:

https://www.barrington.cambs.sch.uk/website/our_governors/328976

The Structure of Governance

As well as meeting as a Full Governing Board, there are also two committees, in order to ensure sufficient oversight, support and accountability towards areas of identified priority and statutory coverage.

The school names these committees as:

- Education Committee – which mainly deals with matters relating to the curriculum, assessment and data, SEND and pupil premium expenditure and impact.
- Business Committee– which mainly deals with HR, finance, health and safety, and premises.

All groups have a continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and manage the updates of school policies aligned to the particular areas of responsibility.

In addition to the above, the school also constitutes a Pay Committee and Headteacher Performance Management Panel annually.

Committees related to particular purposes such as dealing with complaints or exclusions are constituted as they are required, in line with the determining policy guidance.

Impact of the work of the Full Governing Body

The last academic year saw a new Headteacher join the school, with a Deputy Head position also appointed to for the first time. Over the course of the last academic year, the Governing Body has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Managing the growth of the school, in particular planning for the addition of the seventh class in September 2025;
- Managing the school budget to keep as close as possible to the planned budget despite having considerably more pupils than the school was funded for;
- Agreeing a strategic plan for the next 3 years – prioritising the next three years for staffing structures to support the increased pupil numbers and number of staff, and the spending priorities for the expected additional budget as the funding catches up with the number of pupils.

The main challenges faced and addressed by the Board this year have been:

- The on-going growth of the school has an impact on our budget, as we are funded for considerably fewer children than we have on roll;
- The school has dealt with more serious behaviour issues this year than in recent years, and this has led to temporary exclusions;
- The school's SEND provision;
- Strategic use of staff, particularly TAs, the SENCO and the office staff.

Impact of the work of the Business Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Business Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Aligning the growth of school staff (including new teacher and TAs, office staff and additional SENCO days) with the agreed strategy, ensuring that investments are prioritised and phased;
- Agreeing investments in school maintenance and safety, and transitioned to new broadband provision;
- Actively reviewing health and safety, with a particular focus on road safety, working with the parish council;
- Agreeing a faster approach to adopting and implementing teacher pay recommendations;
- Discussing a more modern approach to school administration and communication and the redesign of the school website.

The main challenges faced by this Committee this year have been:

- Balancing the desperate need for investment in additional teaching and support resource with the imperative of maintaining financial balance, requiring careful prioritisation and phasing;
- Prioritising capital investment within the available budget.

Impact of the work of the Education Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Education Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Receiving termly assessment data and reviewing actions/initiatives that are put in place to address any concerns arising from this
- Ensuring that an effective system for assessing and tracking pupil attainment and progress is in place
- Reviewing teaching staff/SENCO/TA needs and effective use
- Reviewing provision and inclusion for SEND and PP pupils
- Ensuring that the mental health of pupils and staff is a priority
- Updating the Governing Body on the above

The main challenges faced by this Committee this year have been...

- Budget constraints which limit what can be delivered against what is required
- Insufficient general classroom TA hours and the unreliability of those which are allocated due to essential redirection
- Increase in pupils with SEND

Governor Training

Governors work collectively, so we are always able to benefit from our different points of view and considerations within meetings. However, the Governing Body has also benefitted from training courses on the following topics throughout the course of the year;

- Pupil exclusions processes and practices
- SIAMS preparation
- Being an effective safeguarding governor
- Managing complaints and allegations
- Being an effective governing body (getting Ofsted ready)

Governor Monitoring

As well as attending meetings, governors are also expected to visit school to understand more about school life and particular areas of priority (typically linked with different areas of the curriculum, or school development).

Throughout the course of this year, governors have undertaken particular monitoring in relation to:

- Feedback/Marking
- Maths
- Writing
- Safeguarding
- Health and safety
- SEND

Compliance

The Governing Body has ensured that an effective safeguarding culture is in place. Our work includes:

- Including safeguarding as a standard item on all FGB, Education Committee and Business Committee agendas
- Having a designated safeguarding governor who has had termly meetings with the headteacher to monitor aspects of safeguarding and report to FGB
- Monitoring by the safeguarding governor of implementation of recommendations of safeguarding audit of December 2024 with reporting to FGB
- Including a safeguarding focus for each curriculum monitoring visit. The focuses this year have been attendance and absence and mental health and well-being.

The Governing Body has ensured that the relevant policies and procedures are in place by:

- Checking and ratifying policies at Business Committee, Education Committee and Full Governing Body meetings
- Checking that policies are on the website as part of the website audit.

Forward Planning

- Planning for OFSTED and SIAMS

We are overdue for a SIAMS inspection and are due an OFSTED inspection from April 2026 onwards. The governing body will need to ensure that the preparation documents are in place for the SIAMS inspection, and that they are familiar with the requirements of the new OFSTED inspection framework which is due to be published imminently. The governing body will then want to review readiness against the OFSTED framework and take action to address any identified gaps.

- School leadership

With the growth of the school in terms of pupil numbers and staff size, governors will need to plan for changes to the leadership structure within the school. This will include increasing the deputy head hours and introducing heads of foundation/key stage 1 and key stage 2. Alongside this, the governing body will want to understand and review the new vision and 'rainbow framework' for the school to ensure it is effective in developing learning behaviours and inclusion.

- TA support

With the expected reduction of pressures on the school budget due to increasing stability in pupil numbers, governors will need to review the provision of TA support across the school, and consider how to use any increase in the TA budget.

- SEND provision

With the increasing pupil numbers, SEND numbers are also expected to increase. Governors will need to continue to consider what types of SEND provision should be offered by the school and manage the increase of hours for SEND staff, particularly the SENCO and the family support worker.

'Inclusion for All Framework'

Inclusion is the removal of barriers and ensuring a culture of belonging for all pupils. Within the 'Inclusion for all Framework' we will create a sense of belonging and promote well-being and attendance through safeguarding, curriculum, special education needs and disabilities support, behaviour and transition.

Other information and Contact

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at:

https://www.barrington.cambs.sch.uk/website/our_governors/328976

This includes information regarding attendance of governors and their Declarations of Interest.

Alternatively, stakeholders are always welcome to get in touch with the Governing Body by emailing the Chair of Governors to chair@barrington.cambs.sch.uk