



School governing bodies are now encouraged to produce an annual statement for parents and all other stakeholders connected to their school. Whilst this is not yet a statutory requirement, it is considered to be good practice and provides some insight into the role of the Governing Body. The Governors of Kennet Valley School feel this is an essential way of communicating with all associated with the school.

This report is the fifth Annual Report produced by The Governing Body of the Kennet Valley Church of England (VA) Primary School. It sets out the key actions of the board in the 2018/19 academic year and charts their impact on the school. It also explains the remit of the Full Governing Board and its Committees and shows the attendance record of governors in Appendix I.

I. IMPACT REPORT

The Board of Governors has three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

i. Vision, ethos and strategy

Our Vision and Values statement is on the school website. We are committed to making sure that Kennet Valley School provides the very best standard of education for all of its pupils and leads the way among our local cluster of schools. Our **Mission statement** reflects the ethos and aspirations of the school, in a process that involved the school council, teachers and governors.

‘One Family, Learning for Life, On a Journey, Towards our Potential’

We promise to ensure all children fulfil and exceed their potential and expect behaviour and attendance standards to be high. The school is well known for its friendly and caring attitude - a factor that is noticed by all in the way the children look after one another.

The school's ethos is being shaped by our core values as a Church of England school. Our Christian ethos is at the centre of helping pupils to learn the values that will support them as they grow. We have a governor with responsibility for spiritual education and the local rector is an ex officio member of our governing body.

The Governing Body work with the Head Teacher on the strategic plan for the school and help to ensure consistent teaching quality, monitoring progress against targets with the Head Teacher regularly assessing teaching quality at all levels. In all cases the targets are stretching but achievable. This ensures the very best is set out for all children, who undoubtedly benefit from the attitude of all staff.

Each year, the governors and Head Teacher agree the annual objectives. For 2018/19 the School development plan had 5 objectives. These were



1. Continue to improve writing and maths by;
Ensuring writing in all subjects shows a greater range and depth,
Continue to develop mathematical skills so that children can use them in all aspects of the maths curriculum.
2. Continue to improve leadership and management, including developing the roles of all leaders' especially middle leaders so that teaching and learning is checked and that high expectations are consistently demonstrated.
3. Governors will continue to work effectively with all staff to communicate a shared vision and strategic direction for the school, and will develop their roles as critical friends to all levels of leadership within the school.
4. School to build stronger links with the church, ensuring the development of children's involvement in Collective Worship, and the assessment of tracking in RE.
Continue to build links with the local community.
5. School to ensure that cross curricular links are planned throughout the school, building a strong broad and balanced curriculum for all learners including disadvantaged, SEND, middle and higher achieving pupils, which will allow them to make more than expected progress.

Progress against these objectives is a standing item on the Governing Body agenda and a formal evaluation is undertaken at the end of each academic year.

ii. Holding the Headteacher to account

Full Governing Body meetings are held every term (six times a year), with subcommittee meetings (Curriculum and Standards & Finance and Staffing, along with Data Committee) also held separately each term. At each meeting the Head Teacher presents the Governing Body with a detailed report, which includes information on attendance, behaviour, pupil progress and attainment and significant news. The Governing body has worked with the Headteacher to develop these reports to ensure that they have the information that they need to ask detailed challenging questions about the school and the day to day running of it. This provides Governors with an accurate and in-depth understanding of the strengths and development areas of the school, allowing them to support and challenge in order to secure improvements in all areas of educational performance. Governors also conduct visits to the school, where they meet with subject leaders and visit lessons. This again allows invaluable first-hand experience of teaching and learning in the school. The minutes of the Full Governing Board and its Committees is posted on the Governor pages of the school website and can be found in paper form in the reception area of the school.

During 2018/19 the Governing body has ensured that they have regularly reviewed the School Development Plan. It has been reviewed at staff meetings as well as sub-committee meetings and Full Governing Body meetings. This has allowed the Governors to see which objectives have met their targets and which objectives still need to be worked on. This has also allowed them to talk to the Headteacher and the teachers about how the school is improving. In 2018/19 there have also been governors who are responsible for monitoring the School Development Plan and for evaluating it and its impact. These governors have met with the headteacher and have asked challenging questions about the improvement strategies in place. This will continue with the new School Development Plan in 2019/20.

As part of the link governor and class governor roles there was an increased amount of governor visits to the school, not only to work with classes but also to meet with the headteacher. These meetings included Safeguarding, Pupil premium and SEN meetings.

The Co-Chairs of the Governing body have also met with the Headteacher on a regular basis (approx. fortnightly) so that they have a detailed understanding of the school. This has allowed them to gain a clear knowledge of positives and concerns that the headteacher has. This will continue in 2019/2020.



iii. Overseeing financial performance

The Governing Body approves the school budget, scrutinises income and expenditure reports and agrees major purchasing decisions. They ensure the school's finances are regularly monitored and that money is spent sensibly and in a way that provides good value. The Governing Body has also acted to ensure that the school's staffing structure is appropriate for the numbers of pupils on roll, is right for the curriculum offer, and is able to give targeted pastoral support to our pupils.

2. OTHER ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

In 2018/19 the Governing body worked hard to support Mrs Emma Russell as a new Headteacher and both have continued in the constructive working relationship, and have worked hard to move the school forward towards a 'Good' Ofsted rating.

Our Co-Chairs of Governors, Sarah Till-Vattier and Simon Jones have ensured that the board remains focussed on its core functions and strives to increase its knowledge of pupil progress and attainment, allowing greater understanding of the school in general.

The Governing Body is constituted of a good mix of skills and represents many different areas of expertise. Some governors are linked to a class/year group and to a subject and others have specific roles responsible for Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium, Safeguarding, Whistleblowing and Sports Premium. The full list of governor areas of responsibility is set out in a responsibilities matrix that is reviewed annually and is attached here in Appendix I. The whole governing body has worked hard to ensure that the link visits are completed and have designed a detailed note of visits which they review at a later date. They also feedback to the FGB at meetings about link visits.

Governors regularly support events held both within and outside of the school including Open Evenings, Performances, Coffee Mornings, Sports events and Exhibitions. Several Governors have also been on trips with the children this year, which has enabled them to build a good relationship with the children and staff in their link classes.

3. REMIT OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY AND ITS COMMITTEES

The Full Governing Body takes responsibility for the overall effectiveness of the school. It takes ownership for the conduct of the school and promotes high standards of educational achievement in order to ensure that every student fulfils and exceeds their potential. It acts as an employer of staff. The Governing Body is split into two committees: Finance and Staffing, and Standards and Curriculum; each with its own Chair. These committees also meet every term prior to each Full Governing Body meeting. The minutes from the two committees are documented and discussed at the Full Governing Body meetings. The Data Committee has also been reestablished in order to analyse progress data and the impact of teaching and learning on this data going forward.

4. HEAD TEACHER PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Outside of the committees the performance of the Head Teacher is scrutinised by a panel of three members of the Governing Body in conjunction with our advisor from Wiltshire Local Authority. Educational performance and personal development targets are set for the Headteacher that helps drive the process of school improvement.

Board of Governors Annual Report to Stakeholders (2018-2019)

December 2019



All governors are volunteers, with the exception of the Head Teacher and the Rector who are 'ex-officio' governors, and all dedicate their time and efforts into providing a thriving school for your children.

For more information on becoming a governor please contact our Clerk, Laurien Carter, care of the school – admin@kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk or visit the governors section of the Kennet Valley School website – <http://kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk>

Appendix I

2018/2019

Governor's details:

Name	Governor Type	Appointed/Elected By	Term of Office start date	Term of Office end date	Committee	Responsibilities
Peter Barry	Foundation	Church	14-Jul-17	13-Jul-21	Finance & Premises	
Lizzie Daley	Foundation	Church	27-Aug-17	26-Aug-21	Staffing & Curriculum	Chair of S&C Vice Chair of Governors
Chris Diddams	Parent	Parents	01-Nov-16	31-Oct-2020	Finance & Premises	Chair of Finance
Carolyn Gittins	Foundation	Church	07-Feb-18	06-Feb-22	Finance & Premises	
Sarah Hues	Staff	Staff	01-Sep-17	31-Aug-21	Finance & Premises	
Ali Jones	Foundation	Church	01-Dec-15	30-Nov-19	Staffing & Curriculum	Sabbatical from February 2019
Simon Jones	Foundation	Church	01-Mar-15 01-Mar-19	28-Feb-19 28-Feb-23	Finance & Premises	Joint Chair of Governors
Dan Miles	Parent	Parents	06-Mar-18	05-Mar-22	Staffing & Curriculum	
Emma Russell	Head	Ex officio	04-Sep-17	03-Sep-21	Attends Both	
Maria Shepherdson	Foundation	Ex officio	26-Dec-14	25-Dec-18	Staffing & Curriculum	
Sarah Till-Vattier	Local Authority	FGB	01-Jan-18	31-Dec-21	Attends both	Joint Chair of Governors

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Associate Governors – do not attend meetings. Appointed with specific remits]

Lisa Morgan	01/09/2017	31/08/2021
Becky Tilley	26/06/2018 25/06/2019	25/06/2019 24/06/2020

Name	Business or Other Interests	Attendance at FGB 2018-19	Attendance at Committees 2018-19
Peter Barry		6/6	F&S –5/6
Lizzie Daley		4/6	C&S –5/5
Chris Diddams		4/6	F&S –6/6
Carolyn Gittins		3/6	F&S –6/6
Sarah Hues		4/6	F&S –5/6
Ali Jones	Mother of Simon Jones	1/3	C&S –1/3
Simon Jones	Does some maintenance work for school; Son of Ali Jones	6/6	F&S –6/6 C&S - 3/5
Dan Miles		5/6	C&S - 3/5
Lisa Morgan		4/6	C&S –4/5
Emma Russell		6/6	C&S –5/5 F&S –6/6
Maria Shepherdson		5/6	C&S –5/5
Sarah Till-Vattier		5/6	C&S –5/5 F&S –5/6

FGB = Full Governing Board Meetings

C&S = Curriculum & Standards Committee, **F&S** = Finance & Staffing Committee

Data = Data Committee

FGB, C&S and F&S have 6 meetings per academic year, apart from Data, which has a minimum of 3. Attendance is given from the point that a governor joined the board, or committee.