



School governing bodies are 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 Church of England VA Primary School feel this is an essential way of communicating with all associated with the school. It sets out the key actions of the board in the 2020/21 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.

Courage, Curiosity and Compassion

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, ensuring that all of our children receive the best education possible.

Mention also needs to be made this year of the continued effect on the School of the Covid Pandemic. This has disrupted the smooth running of the School in a major way and has placed an enormous extra burden on all of the Staff, especially the Head Teacher. The Board of Governors are incredibly grateful for the energetic and enthusiastic way all of the Staff have managed what must be one of the most challenging periods in the School's history



Each year, the governors and Head Teacher agree the annual objectives. For 2020-2021 the School development plan had 5 objectives. These were

1. Continue to improve writing and reading for all learners, to ensure that pupils make more than expected progress across the key stages, whilst guaranteeing that children have a love for writing and reading.
2. School to continue to build stronger links with the church, ensuring the development of children's involvement in Collective Worship to sustain the Christian Ethos of the school, and the assessment of tracking in RE. Continue to build links with the local community.
3. School to continue to ensure children have access to high quality learning and teaching and to increase effectiveness of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths
4. Develop greater learning and teaching in all areas of the school, including in the school grounds and in the local community and area.
5. 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.

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 (FGB) are held every term (six times a year), with subcommittee meetings also held separately each term. The sub-committee meetings are the Curriculum and Standards meeting (C&S) and the Finance and Staffing meeting (F&S). 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. Governors also conduct visits to the school including Learning Walks, where they meet with subject leaders and visit lessons. This 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 2020-2021 the Governing body has had great difficulty in ensuring that they have regularly reviewed the School Development Plan. This has been brought about by the Covid Pandemic, which has disrupted every aspect of smooth school running. Full Governing Body Meetings have had to take place using the Zoom system and this has placed an extra layer of difficulty in the day to day working. Nevertheless, the School Development Plan has been reviewed at Zoom 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 – particularly in light of the break in schooling brought about by the Pandemic.

The Co-Chairs of the Governing body have also met with the Headteacher on a regular basis 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. These meetings took place via Zoom for the majority of 2020/2021. Providing the rules on Meetings are not disrupted by new Government edicts in regards to Covid, it is planned that this will continue in 2021-2022

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. The setting of a budget for the forthcoming years has been particularly challenging in light of the disruption caused by Covid. This has also impacted staffing levels and has required movement of some staff members. Of importance however, has been the significant increase in children coming into the School since the OFSTED inspection and this does bode well for the future.

2. OTHER ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Our Co-Chairs of Governors Lizzie Daley and Simon Jones 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. Most governors are linked to a class/year group and to a subject and others have specific roles being responsible for Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium, Safeguarding, Whistleblowing and Sport 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 1. 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.

Although badly disrupted by Covid this year, Governors normally regularly support events held both within and outside of the school including Open Evenings, Performances, Coffee Mornings, Sports events and Exhibitions. Under normal circumstances, Governors would also go on trips with the children, 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.

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.

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>

Board of Governors Annual Report to Stakeholders (2020-2021)

November 2021



Appendix I

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	Attends both	Joint Chair of Governors
Anastasia Beverley	Foundation	Church	06-Dec-219	05-Dec-23	Curriculum and Standards	
Sanjay Chudasama	Parents	Appointed (no nominations)	2-Nov-2020	1-Nov-2024		
Lizzie Daley	Foundation	Church	27-Aug-17 27-Aug-21	26-Aug-21 26-Aug-25	Curriculum and Standards	Chair of S&C Vice Chair of Governors
Chris Diddams	Parent Associate	Parents FGB	01-Nov-16 01-Nov-2020	31-Oct-2020 31-Oct-2024	Finance & Staffing	Chair of Finance & Premises
Carolyn Gittins	Foundation	Church	07-Feb-18	06-Feb-22	Finance & Staffing	
Sarah Hues	Staff	Staff	01-Sep-17	31-Aug-21	Finance & Staffing	
Angharad Hughes	Foundation	Church	06-Dec-219	05-Dec-23	F&S; C&S (see below)	
Simon Jones	Foundation	Church	01-Mar-19	28-Feb-23	Attends both	Joint Chair of Governors
Dan Miles	Parent	Parents	06-Mar-18	05-Mar-22	Curriculum and Standards	
Emma Russell	Head	Ex officio	04-Sep-17	03-Sep-21	Attends Both	
Maria Shepherdson	Foundation	Ex officio	22-Jun-19	21-Jun-23	Staffing & Curriculum	

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

Lisa Morgan	01/09/2017	31/08/2021
Becky Tilley	01/09/2020	31/08/2021
Ali Jones	02/10/2019	01/10/2023
Lucy Humphries	26/11/2019	25/11/2020
Nick Oram-West	26/11/2019	25/11/2020

Board of Governors Annual Report to Stakeholders (2020-2021)

November 2021



Name	Business or Other Interests	Attendance at FGB 2020-21	Attendance at Committees 2020-21
Peter Barry		S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6	F&S – S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6 C&S – S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6
Anastasia Beverley *		/J/Ma 2/6	C&S /J/M/Ma 3/6
Sanjay Chudasama		N/J/M/Ma/J 5/5	F&S – N/J/M/Ma/J
Lizzie Daley		S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6	C&S – S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6
Chris Diddams		S/M As an associate only attends Committee unless required at FGB	F&S – S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6
Carolyn Gittins		S/N/J/M/Ma 5/6	F&S – S /M/Ma/J 4/6
Angharad Hughes		S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6	F&S – S/N 2/2 C&S /J/M/Ma/J 4/4
Sarah Hues			F&S – /N/J/Ma/J 4/6 C&S – M/Ma 2/6
Simon Jones	Does some maintenance work for school;	S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6	F&S – S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6 C&S - S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6
Dan Miles		S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6	C&S - S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6
Lisa Morgan		S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6	C&S – S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6
Emma Russell		S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6	C&S – S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6 F&S – S//N/J/Ma/J 6/6
Maria Shepherdson		S/J/M/J 4/6	C&S – S/N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6
Sarah Till-Vattier		S/N/M/Ma/J 5/6	F&S – S//N/J/M/Ma/J 6/6

* - maternity leave for first part of the academic year

FGB = Full Governing Board Meetings

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