



Governor Spotlight April 2019

The 23rd March, we held the first meeting of the Full Governing Body (FGB) following the recent Ofsted inspection. Whilst Ofsted was the main topic of discussion, we did have other matters to attend to with respect to the upcoming SIAMS inspection as well as progress of the potential academisation. The meeting began by remembering our friend and co-chair of governors, Tom Whittingham, who sadly passed away that week. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family. As a result of Tom passing away, James Hirst has been appointed to the role of co-chair of governors.

Ofsted Action Plan

As we all know, the school has been given a 'requires improvement' rating. There are a number of areas that we need to address and we are working hard to do so.

An external review of governance will be undertaken in order to assess how leadership and management may be improved and how we, as governors, can be more effective in challenging the school. We had been planning to re-organise our Governing Body structure, and the report confirmed the need to ensure all Governors have a clearer overview of all aspects of the school. As a result, we have decided to do the following:

A review/restructure of governor roles and responsibilities to align with the school's focus areas

There is an increased focus on the key areas for improvement as determined by the report and we have therefore restructured the link governor roles to reflect this. There are now link governor roles for:

- Reading
- Writing
- Maths
- Creative Curriculum
- Christian Distinctiveness
- SEND/Pupil Premium
- Early Years
- Safeguarding
- Staffing
- Resources (Finance, HR & Policies)
- Health & Safety
- GDPR

The link governors in each field will work closely with the school and teacher teams to improve on the Ofsted outcomes.

Streamlining of the FGB and various subcommittee meetings

Previously, we held one Full Governing Body (FGB) meeting per term with each subcommittee holding individual committee meetings and reporting back at the FGB. We have decided to streamline this process and will, from after Easter, now have two FGB meetings per term each with a key focus and action area. The first of these will be our next FGB on 7th May where we will be discussing the school's detailed Ofsted action plan and monitoring that all school improvement aspects are being appropriately addressed.

After Easter, a copy of the post-Ofsted action plan will be available from the School Office for those parents who would like a copy.



An increased focus on ensuring we receive the information we need to both challenge and support school leaders.

The report highlights that we have not been effective enough in challenging the school's leaders to make the improvements needed quickly enough. It states that we have relied too much on what senior leaders have told us and have not had an accurate overview of the school's effectiveness, particularly in the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.

With a number of new Governors on board, we will work hard to ensure that this is not the case moving forwards and will commission an external review of governance to verify this.

SIAMS

Ofsted aside, we also have an upcoming SIAMS inspection. Work is continuing to ensure that this inspection has a positive outcome. The school and foundation governors are working hard to promote the Christian vision and values and to make sure relevant policies are up to date. Foundation governors have been holding regular observations of collective worship & RE.

Academisation Update

Conversations with DBAT are continuing. They are fully aware of our recent Ofsted inspection and are committed to helping the school on our improvement journey.

The Regional Schools Commissioners Office have recently approved our application to proceed and our consultation period will formally begin in due course. A list of key dates are as follows:

- Consultation period: 29/4/19 to 10/6/19
- Proposed Conversion date: 1/10/19
- Parents/pupils/community consultation date: 20/5/19
- Next conversion group meeting: w/c 29/4/19

We need you! Come join us...

We are always on the lookout for more Governors and now more than ever we'd welcome conversations with interested parents and/or members of the community. If you or anyone you know is interested and would like to help us on our journey, please get in contact for an informal conversation. We are particularly looking for governors with Finance, HR and Education experience.

Thank you

A huge thank you to all of you who have attended the parent drop in sessions and shared your thoughts and views following the Ofsted result. We value your feedback and want to assure you that we fully accept the Ofsted judgement and we are doing all we can to get Sutton Benger school back to where it should be.

Dates for the diary

The next FGB meeting is on Tuesday 7th May. If you have any questions, wanted a particular item addressed, or even wanted to attend the meeting with a view to joining the governing body, please do let us know using the emails below.

For more information about what the governors at Sutton Benger Primary School do, to find meeting agendas and minutes, and to explore who the Governors are please visit the school website:

www.suttonbenger.org

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New Governor Profile Catherine Donovan



When I was asked to consider joining the Board of Governors my first thought was: "I think I already have plenty to do". Then I realised to some extent that implied that those who were on the Board perhaps had less to do than I did. I decided to find out more about the role and was truly humbled to realise how much other people were investing in the welfare and education of my own children. I made the commitment to join on the basis that many hands make lighter work, and if there was any way I could help those who were already investing in my children's education, I should do so.

Although I live in Chippenham, me and my husband made a decision to move our girls to Sutton Benger school. My first thoughts on visiting the school were "if I had to go back to primary school, I would choose this school". Our daughter loved the school and joined in 2012. She was in Year 4 but settled in very well. She is now at Sheldon in year

11, but it is amazing that the staff at Sutton Benger still ask after her. Her two siblings went to Benger Bears which had a lovely set up and are now in Peace and Hope class.

My sentiments about the school have not changed over the years but been affirmed. In addition, having a child at secondary school has given me the perspective on the significance of an effective primary school in ensuring our children enjoy learning and develop the desire to continue learning, which are integral aspects of our children's development. I hope that in my role as a governor I can positively support and challenge the school to continue to deliver on these aspects and more.