

Westcott Church of England School

Governing Board Newsletter

N^o.3 November 2022



Hello Everybody

This newsletter is intended to keep members of the school community up to date with activities at school from the perspective of the Governing Board. We intend to issue Newsletters regularly so that you are kept aware of what is happening at school now, and what is planned for the future.

School Leadership

Interim Headship is being provided by Ian Newton, Lorraine Quirk and Katharine Passmore. They have been making tremendous efforts to lead the school as it improves, for which we are very thankful. Arrangements for next term will be confirmed as soon as possible. The situation concerning Barry Grace remains unchanged, in that he is still on extended leave.

Special Measures and School Improvement.

School Leaders and Governors are working together with Bucks Council and Oxford Diocese Board of Education (ODBE) colleagues to improve the school. The Intertim Heads have created a **School Improvement Plan (SIP)**, which covers in more detail the work to be done this term.

On 7th November, we had a first **TAS (Team Around The School)** meeting to check progress. All those involved in school improvement, including school leaders and governors, were held to account for the work that has been done and results achieved thus far. The mood of this meeting was generally constructive, recognising that there has been progress as well as acknowledging that there is still much to do.

Selected highlights of progress:

Safeguarding

1. All staff and governors have received training on Safeguarding policy and practice as well as the most recent Keeping Children Safe In Education (KCSIE) rules.
2. Construction of new EYFS toilets is underway, improving convenience and safety of our youngest pupils.
3. A new electronic system (called CPOMS) for recording and communication of safeguarding concerns is replacing the old paper system, and staff are being trained to use it effectively.
4. Safeguarding is an agenda item on all weekly staff meetings and all governing board meetings.

Quality of Education and Behaviour

1. A new “Pathways” **curriculum** has been introduced, which gives clear and structured progression in each subject area. This curriculum is being adapted by staff to meet our needs at Westcott, and there is more clarity on what needs to be taught.
2. Staff are becoming more skilled in delivering the **ReadWrite Inc phonics** programme, and further training is planned. New reading practice books have been bought to support reading across the range of reading abilities.
3. Teaching and learning support staff have had further training from a **SEND** Adviser, helping them to identify and meet the different needs of their pupils and to write effective support plans. Benefits to SEND children are becoming apparent.
4. The new **Behaviour policy** is being implemented, with more clarity and consistency on rewards and sanctions. Pupils report through Pupil Voice that they understand what good behaviour is, and that they are behaving better.

Academisation

We believe that high-level discussions are underway between Bucks and the Academy Trust, to check how the academisation can best go ahead. Governors are not involved at this stage. We will update you when there is more news.

Parent Governors

We were disappointed to hear that again there were no nominations for Parent Governor in the recent call to election. Please contact Lorraine Quirk or Jonathan Lewin - email below - if you would like to know more about being a Parent Governor. We really would like the parents to be represented on the Governing Board. **If ever there was a time to feel you were influencing the strategy of the school, surely it is now, as we rebuild from last Summer’s Ofsted inspection.**

Current Governing Board Membership

Rev Caroline Wainman - Vicar of Waddesdon and Westcott. Rev Caroline leads services at our church and collective worship for our school

Jenath Khan - Local Authority Governor. Jen is a Bucks resident who teaches in Milton Keynes and wants also to contribute to education through school governance.

Jonathan Lewin - Foundation Governor, Chair. Jonathan is part of the congregation at St Marys. He’s had a career that’s included industrial chemistry and music tuition.

Kim Nettleton - Staff Governor. Most of us will know Kim from her role in school administration. Kim is new to governance.

Kirsty Eales - Foundation Governor. Kirsty is part of the congregation at St Michaels, Waddesdon. She is headteacher at another combined school in Bucks.

Lorna Piper - Foundation Governor, Diocese Appointed - has joined us recently. Lorna has experience as a teacher and Maths Advisor, as well as leadership of a school regenerating from Special Measures.

Nick Kampa - Foundation Governor. Nick is a long-standing member of the governing board. His children were at Westcott CofE a number of years ago, and he is determined to help the school succeed for its pupils.

Toby Long - Foundation Governor, Diocese Appointed. Toby has been a school teacher and headteacher. He has worked with Westcott CofE in the past in his role as School Advisor with Oxford Diocese Board of Education.

In addition, the **Interim Heads** report to Governor meetings.

A **big thank you to our staff team**, who continue to respond with commitment to developing themselves and our school to serve our pupils even better.

And **thank you, our pupils' families**, for engaging with Parents' Evening and other information events, reading at home, phonics practice and homework, costumes for Maths Day, and more. We hope that you now feel better informed about school, through the Weekly Newsletters, the website, this sheet and other routes.

The **Parents and Friends Association** continues to support the school's finances by organising fund-raising events - look out for the **Family Disco** on Friday 9th December.

Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Jonathan Lewin

Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Board, Westcott CofE School

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