

## **EGERTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **GOVERNING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

Ed Schryver – Chair of FGB - Co-opted Governor  
Beth Foxford – Vice Chair – Co-opted Governor  
Julia Walker - Headteacher  
Dan Langford – Staff Governor  
Sue Neame – Authority Governor  
Nick Fox – Co-opted Governor (resigned July 2023)  
Rev Sandra Marsh - Ex officio Governor  
Sarah Gilbert – Foundation Governor  
Nick Leggett– Parent Governor (resigned July 2023)  
Phillip Brabbin – Parent Governor  
Sue Hubbard – School Business Manager and GB consult / observer  
Jacqui Wapshott – Clerk (resigned July 2023)

### **Core statutory functions of the GB**

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

### **What's happened this year**

- Appointment of three new governors.
- New Chair and Vice Chair started to lead the Governing Board from September 2022.
- Amendment to the structure of monitoring visits to assign subjects and areas of monitoring responsibility to individual governors.
- Key focus on providing a healthy challenge across all aspects of the school while ensuring cognisance is taken for staff and pupil welfare at all times.
- Meetings have been held in person on the school grounds following relaxation of covid-19 measures which has proved to provide a greater level of collaboration between the governors.
- Continued great control on finances overall providing a position of investment for the coming year.
- Continued investment in core personnel to support pupil progress and good use of catch up premium – 2xTA's and 1 x full time teacher as a minimum per class to continue for a third year.
- Reception class numbers are lower than expected/desired for September 2023 despite ongoing efforts to promote the school to prospective parents. The pre-school has provided an excellent source of pupils for future intakes and it has been recognised as a key focus area for 2023. It is noted other schools in the area have experienced similar dwindling numbers for intake into September 2023.

### **Points for consideration this year:**

- Marketing options for the school to ensure all platforms are being properly utilised.
- Prepare the GB and teachers for Ofsted and improve understanding of the expectations within the framework.
- Continuous development of the new monitoring plan with a focus on the balance between individual, specific and targeted monitoring visits, and, group monitoring visits of the whole school.
- Further analysis of the very positive SATS results with lessons learnt to be implemented into the focus points for governor monitoring.
- Leaders to continue to develop the strategy for improving attendance which has seen some positive results within 2022 to 2023.
- New Governor Induction process to be used for the recruitment of future governors. Key focus to be on making governors comfortable to challenge, suitably trained and with a buddying partner to shadow for monitoring visits.
- Maintain the celebration of success and collaborative efforts with the pre-school to feed reception intake.
- Fill the parent governor vacancy and two co-opted governor vacancies for the upcoming year with continued development and support for the existing governors.

This year, the governing body leadership has seen some significant change with a new Chair and Vice-Chair in place and three new governors joining the body. The new governors have been greatly supported by the existing team and a good balance has been struck with the introduction of some new ideas (particularly regarding the organisation of monitoring visits), whilst utilising the vast experience already contained within the Governing Body. This has allowed the Governing Body to keep doing the things that worked well while taking a fresh approach in other areas of governance. We have undertaken some collective training sessions, in particular regarding Financial challenge and preparation for Ofsted. To be able to undertake such training collectively and in person has been hugely beneficial for all governors.

We are again challenged with the loss of some valued governors who have huge experience and who have provided excellent challenge and support to the school leadership team in the past. However, with clear tangible evidence of various strategies developed by the school leadership team in the year producing positive results, we are well positioned to keep striving for excellence across all areas of the school. We anticipate an Ofsted inspection soon but feel the work undertaken in the year by both the school and the Governing Body has put us in a good position when the inspection arrives.

The core functions of the Governing Body have been met with a focus on providing a challenge to the school leadership team with cognisance for the pressures and time constraints faced by the staff in the continued development of the curriculum. We have continued with the Circle model of governance as it provides us with the best opportunity to meet as a collective, align our strategy with monitoring visits and help new governors in their development within their respective roles.

For the year ahead our focus will be on ensuring all subjects and curriculums are sufficiently monitored by the respective subject governors with follow up to ensure there is evidence of the specific strategies working as planned including the implementation of any improvements to arise from the initial subject meetings. I am looking forward to seeing the new governor induction process in action with new members to the governing body. We have already received significant interest in the vacancies with an excellent cross section of experience and skill-sets to compliment the

experience and skill-set we already have. Following the skills audit we have some good data for which we can plan our individual and group training sessions which worked well over the previous year. The upskilling of the governing body alongside a continued increased presence of governors within the school will be a focus for the year as we continue to our preparations for the upcoming Ofsted inspection. The key indicators demonstrate the various strategies utilised by the school leadership team and governors are working as intended but I would stress that we must focus on continuous improvement and strive for excellence in all areas of the school. Pupil attainment and the link with attendance was identified last year as a key area for improvement. This will be further developed this year alongside greater financial scrutiny in reaction to the financial challenges the cost of living crisis has introduced.

I would personally like to thank all members of the Governing Board for the huge level of support given to me in my first year as Chair. We will undoubtedly miss the skills, professionalism and companionship of the governors leaving us but look forward to welcoming the new governors and I feel with the new governor induction process in place, we will be able to fully utilise the experience and skill-set of our members in the year to come. Equally I would like to thank the school leaders and all school staff for their open and honest dialogue with us, willingness to accept challenge and dedication in striving for excellence and making Egerton Church of England Primary School a great place to be for students and staff alike.