

EGERTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

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
Rev Sandra Marsh - Ex officio Governor
Sarah Gilbert – Foundation Governor
Tom Maher – Parent Governor
Phillip Brabbin – Parent Governor
Sue Hubbard – School Business Manager and GB consult / observer
Frances Sharp – Clerk

Core statutory functions of the GB

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher and her Leadership Team 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 one new governor.
- Ofsted inspection with a Good outcome.
- Continuation of 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 continued to be 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. We are making greater use of technology however to allow attendance via Teams to provide greater flexibility around work and personal commitments.
- Continued control on finances with cognisance of general financial challenges and risks such as inflation rises, cost of living increases, material and equipment price increases and the impact to staff.
- Review of the core personnel to support pupil progress and use of catch up premium – currently circa 2xTA's and 1 x full time teacher per class.
- Class numbers continue to be monitored with a general depletion in birth rates leading to lower Reception class intakes across the country. The school has managed to combat this with its continued efforts to promote the school to prospective parents and excellent representation of the school by teachers and pupils alike. The pre-school has provided a good source of pupils for future intakes and it has been recognised as a key focus area for 2024-25. It is noted other schools in the area have experienced dwindling numbers for intake into September 2024.

Points for consideration this year:

- Marketing options for the school to ensure all platforms are being properly utilised.
- To build on the Good Ofsted rating and fantastic feedback that was provided during the inspection.
- 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 2023 to 2024.
- Utilisation of the likes of Team Theme to provide greater specialist curriculum and lesson support.
- Continued use of the 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.

This year, the governing body leadership has been able to build on the foundations built in 2022-2023 with less focus on implementing new personnel into roles and more focus on the ability to be effective in the key functions of the Governing Body. We have looked at how best the Board could prepare the school for Ofsted which put us in a good position when the inspection was announced and undertaken. It was most pleasing to see the school give a true, honest and transparent account of itself and receive such positive feedback as a result. The feedback from pupils and parents alike was some of the best and most consistent the inspectors had ever seen and they noted on several occasions that the environment and happiness of the children shone through. Attendance levels remain a key challenge (as it does nationally), and this remains a focus point moving into the year ahead. A huge amount of thanks goes to all those who were involved in the Ofsted inspection.

With only one governor vacancy to fill this year, we have been able to turn our attention to upskilling the Board with individual and group training sessions. Our gap analysis at the beginning of the year has allowed us to target some key areas of training, notably Financial Probity and setting the strategic vision. This is aligned to our belief in continuous improvement in all aspects of our roles and responsibilities.

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 we 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. 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 their hard work in the year, particularly around the Ofsted inspection. We will undoubtedly miss the skills, professionalism and companionship of the members of the Board who have left us but look forward to welcoming a new governor and Clerk to the team. 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.

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. The Ofsted inspection result provided evidence we are making progress and the school is performing fantastically well. We will continue to do more and keep striving for excellence in all areas.