



# Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Christ Church Primary School – July 2017

## Who are the Governors and how do we work?

The Governing Body is in place to hold school leaders to account for the educational and financial performance of the school, to set its vision and values (and the strategy for delivering those) and to oversee the school's financial success and probity. The Governing Body supports and challenges the school to provide the best possible outcomes for children attending Christ Church.

It has been a busy and exciting year for the Governing Body. We have a new elected Chair, Isobel Griffiths, replacing the previous Chair, Tim Rogers, and the structure of the Governing Body has been reviewed and updated. The Full Governing Body (FGB) meets a minimum of once each term and we now have two additional sub-committees, which carry out their specified functions on an ongoing basis:

1. School improvement – Led by Vice Chair, Wendy Hiscock
2. Operational – Led by Vice Chair, Gordon Taylor, addressing functional aspects including finance and safeguarding

Other groups are formed when required, for example, committees that convene when pupil discipline and staffing matters arise.

There are ten Governors and one Associate Governor. Four of the Governors are parents of Christ Church children (two elected Parent Governors, two Co-opted). A full list of Governors and their specific roles can be found on page 4.

Across the governing body, we have a fantastic range of very relevant skills with people who are, or have been:

- Educationalists - including teachers, a Headteacher, Ofsted inspectors and a Head of School Improvement at a local council
- Industry specialists - including an actuary, an engineer, an HR manager and a business manager.

Our Foundation Governors, Reverend Ann Keating and Sabine Purshouse, focus on promoting and celebrating our Church School status and Christian ethos.

## The work we have done

Throughout the year we have focused on school improvement, monitoring financial performance (especially in light of proposed changes under the National Funding Formula), and overseeing the development of the new building.

### School improvement

A key purpose for governors is to support the school in meeting its improvement priorities and fulfilling statutory responsibilities. This academic year has been a busy and productive one for school improvement. Governors have:

- Contributed to and evaluated the effectiveness of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) - Meeting with Mr Baker (Headteacher) and Mrs Hann-Perkins (Deputy Head and Interim Headteacher) to oversee and scrutinise evidence of the delivery of Christ Church School's priorities for improvement.



## Christ Church Church of England (VC) Primary School

- Met regularly throughout the year with Mrs Hann-Perkins to discuss pupil progress and monitor supporting data.
- Conducted performance reviews for Mr Baker and Mrs Hann-Perkins to ensure continued excellence in school management.
- Undertaken learning walks, observing classroom activity, looking at pupils' work and talking to pupils about their attitudes to learning in order to see the outcome of management activity across the whole school.
- Evaluated the impact of subject leaders' activity in driving continuous improvement for their areas of responsibility.

The School has performed well in 2016/17, with Foundation and Key Stage 1 years again achieving well above the national average. Key Stage 2 attainment in reading and maths was excellent. It is a credit to the leadership of the school and the commitment of the teaching staff that such high standards have been maintained.

### Finance

The Finance Governor, Gordon Taylor, has met with senior school managers to agree the budget, review school finances and monitor school funds. Quarterly reports are made to the Full Governing Body (FGB).

Thanks to careful financial management and strategic planning, the school continues to be well placed, having effectively managed increasing costs. Our staffing model has not been adversely affected by a leaner budget and we continue to look for ways to ensure this will be the case as the school funding situation becomes increasingly more challenging.

### Safeguarding

Tony Green, our Health and Safety Associate Governor, carries out termly checks of the premises, reporting to FGB when issues arise. Governors remain vigilant around safeguarding and Reverend Ann Keating continues as our Nominated Governor for Safeguarding. She meets with the school's Inclusion Team and receives reports of any safeguarding issues of concern for the Governors.

### The new build

The new build has now been successfully completed and is already being used by Year 6. The layout is working well and offers fantastic facilities, including a learning kitchen, three new classrooms, management offices and meeting space.

### New Governors

We are thrilled this year to welcome Sue Smith Airey and Sabine Purshouse to the Governing Body. Sue is our staffing, Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disadvantaged pupils Governor, and has reviewed SEN provision. She took part in a learning walk at the school, focussing on disadvantaged and vulnerable learners. At a meeting with the assistant headteacher, Mrs Rutt, provision mapping and the progress of pupil premium pupils were discussed.

Sabine, working closely with Reverend Ann, is responsible for safeguarding and school ethos. Sabine attended an INSET day at the school, analysing and reflecting on academic achievements over the year.

Amy Laird and Graham Adams joined the Governing Body towards the end of the academic year. We warmly welcome them and look forward to working with them in the coming months and years.

### Training and development

The Governing Body undertakes continuous training and development to ensure it is 'fit for purpose'. In the Summer term, a Governors' day was held at the school to evaluate Governing Body



## Christ Church Church of England (VC) Primary School

effectiveness and to develop a Governors' Action Plan for 2017/18. We also have regular training sessions throughout the year.

Individual Governors have attended training courses for SEN, new governor training delivered by Wiltshire County Council and Salisbury Diocese, as well as short courses on Safeguarding and Promoting British Values.

### School Policies

A key role for governors is reviewing and agreeing the school policies and procedure. We have an effective, scheduled review system, working on an annual or biennial basis. We are currently reviewing the school's policy for equality.

### Academy statement

In agreement with the Headteacher and Deputy Head, we do not think it is in the best interests of the children at Christ Church to engage in a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) at present.

Despite the rest of our cluster pursuing a MAT with other schools in the Bath area, we feel there is no further evidence to suggest that we should explore the Academy or MAT route. We will continue to work in collaboration with a number of schools where we can share good/outstanding practice without any formal ties.

## Future plans for the Governors

A Governors' action plan is being developed to strategically focus activity on supporting the delivery of key priorities for school improvement and operations and to ensure that all the Governors' statutory responsibilities are fulfilled.

The action plan will define key activities to be undertaken by the Governing Body to support their delivery and outline timelines for that activity.

This approach will enable the Governing Body to have a clear programme for supporting the purposeful management and progress of the school on an ongoing basis, and to measure when objectives have been successfully delivered.

The Governing Body continues to be impressed by the performance and success of the school and those managers and other staff who have contributed so wholeheartedly to it. We remain committed to working closely with Christ Church School's senior management team to see continuous improvement across the board.



Governor Profiles Clerk to the Governors: Aylene Clack	Meetings attended 2015-2016	Meetings attended 2016-2017
<b>Name:</b> Isobel Griffiths <b>Role:</b> Chair, Co-opted Governor <b>Responsibilities:</b> Whole school accountability <b>Term of Office:</b> 23 Feb 2016 - 22 Feb 2020	100% (3/3)	100% (6/6)
<b>Name:</b> Wendy Hiscock <b>Role:</b> Vice Chair, Local Authority (LA) Governor <b>Responsibilities:</b> School Improvement <b>Term of Office:</b> 1 Dec 2014 – 30 Nov 2018	87.5% (7/8)	100% (6/6)
<b>Name:</b> Gordon Taylor <b>Role:</b> Vice Chair, Parent Governor <b>Responsibilities:</b> Finance <b>Term of Office:</b> 23 Feb 2016 – 22 Feb 2020	67% (2/3)	100% (6/6)
<b>Name:</b> Neil Baker <b>Role:</b> Head Teacher (ex officio) <b>Responsibilities:</b> Whole school responsibility <b>Term of Office:</b> 25 Dec 2009 –	100% (8/8)	100% (6/6)
<b>Name:</b> Sue Smith Airey <b>Role:</b> Co-opted Governor <b>Responsibilities:</b> Staffing, SEND and disadvantaged pupils <b>Term of Office:</b> 1 Nov 2016 – 31 Oct 2020	N/A	83% (5/6)
<b>Name:</b> Leigh Matthew and Jonathon Douglass (role shared) <b>Role:</b> Staff Governors <b>Responsibilities:</b> Staff and Pupil link <b>Term of Office:</b> 1 Oct 2012 – 30 Sept 2017	87.5% (7/8)	83% (5/6)
<b>Name:</b> Gordon Taylor <b>Role:</b> Vice chair, Parent Governor <b>Responsibilities:</b> Finance <b>Term of Office:</b> 23 Feb 2016 – 22 Feb 2020	67% (2/3)	100% (6/6)
<b>Name:</b> Revd. Ann Keating <b>Role:</b> Foundation Governor <b>Responsibilities:</b> VC Status, Safeguarding, staff welfare, complaints <b>Term of Office:</b> 20 March 2014 – 19 March 2018	37.5% (3/8)	100% (6/6)
<b>Name:</b> Graham Adams <b>Role:</b> Co-opted Governor <b>Responsibilities:</b> School operations <b>Term of Office:</b> 18 July 2017 - 18 July 2021	N/A	100% (1/1)
<b>Name:</b> Sabine Purshouse <b>Role:</b> Foundation Governor <b>Responsibilities:</b> Safeguarding, curriculum <b>Term of Office:</b> 1 Oct 2016 – 30 Sept 2020	N/A	100% (6/6)
<b>Name:</b> Amy Laird <b>Role:</b> Parent Governor <b>Responsibilities:</b> School improvement <b>Term of Office:</b> 18 July 2017 - 18 July 2021	N/A	100% (1/1)
<b>Name:</b> Tony Green <b>Role:</b> Associate Governor <b>Responsibilities:</b> Healthy & Safety Audit <b>Term of Office:</b> 1 Dec 2014 to 30 April 2018	N/A	N/A