



Chewton Mendip CEVA Primary School

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ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2016/17

A: Introduction

This is the Annual Governance Statement for Chewton Mendip CE VA Primary School. The purpose of this Statement is to explain how the governing body has fulfilled its responsibilities. It supplements the weekly newsletter and the school's Facebook page in which significant activities are reported as they happen, the minutes of the meetings of the governing body which are always available by the governors' notice board and the governor's forum held each year.

B: Core Functions

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the governing body are: -

- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- To hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- To oversee the financial performance of the school and to ensure its money is well spent.

C: Overview of Governance Arrangements

The composition of the governing body is available from the 'Documents' section of the school website ('Governor Photos – 2016'). Further information about each governor, including the type of governor (parent, foundation, LEA, staff, ex officio) and their personal interest in the school is helpfully set out in

tabular form in the document entitled 'Governor Term & Responsibilities' in the 'Documents' section of the school website.

The full governing body meets four times a year and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. The composition of each of these committees is set out in the document named 'Governor Committees 2016/17' in the 'Documents' section of the school website.

The committees are:

- The Curriculum & Pupil Welfare Committee;
- The Resources & Staff Welfare Committee;
- The Admissions Committee;
- The Pay & Appraisal Committee.

Overall, governors have very good attendance at meetings and we have never had to cancel a meeting because it was not quorate. Please refer 'Governor Attendance - 2015/16' in the 'Documents' section of the school website for a record of attendance for the last academic year.

In addition to the full governing body and committee meetings, there are further ad hoc meetings to deal with issues as they arise from time to time. The governors also come into school as often as time permits. These visits are informal, for example, assemblies, church services, sports day and other school functions, and formal, for example, arranged visits to see the school in action when each governor is assigned to a class. In this way, the governors do their best to get to know and understand the school and this helps them to engage with the Head Teacher on issues ranging from behaviour to academic performance to staffing to resources.

D: Our Impact

Strategic Direction

As we outlined at last year's forum, the school is exploring being part of a multi-academy trust with local primary schools and The Blue School. This year the governing body decided to express a firm intention to continue down this path on the basis that it represents an exciting opportunity for the school which will benefit the children. We have not yet reached the stage of making any binding or irrevocable decision to join the proposed MAT. This is a matter about which you will hear further from the governing body as details about the proposed MAT become clearer and a firm decision has to be made.

Holding the school to account

A significant amount of energy has been given to finding ways further to improve the academic outcomes of the children at the school. The still relatively new curriculum introduced by Mr Gove presented very real challenges for all schools and the teachers and TAs at Chewton worked extremely hard to equip the children to meet the rigorous standards required. However, the results from last year's SATs were a little disappointing overall. This has led to challenging targets being set for the Head Teacher and her team, in particular in reading but also more widely. We hope that you have noticed the increased focus on reading at school both in terms of your child's classroom experience and also in terms of initiatives such as Roald Dahl day, book day and Y13 children from Chew Valley School helping with reading. The governors have spent time focusing on the academic progress of the children and discussing with the Head Teacher how best to improve performance. As part of this, the governors this year received further training to decipher the various data available to the school. We are very hopeful that all this hard work will result in the SATs results which the children and teaching team all deserve.

Finance

As you will no doubt be aware from the media, pressure on school budgets is greater than ever. Happily, the Head Teacher has again managed to produce a balanced budget. However, looking forward the challenge will be to maintain the number of children at the school because funding is based upon pupil numbers. This year, year 6 was a large cohort of 30 children but next year's Y6 will be half that number!

Pupil numbers remains the key issue in terms of the financial viability of our five-class school. The governors are (as ever) immensely grateful to the PTA for their financial support for so many of the things that enrich the children's time at school.

Governance

This year we said goodbye to Will Harris as parent governor and hello to Sophie Pearn as his successor following an election. We warmly thank all those who expressed an interest in this role and who stood for election. We also lost Barley Turner at the end of last year when she left the school to run her new knitting venture! We thank Will and Barley for all their time on the governing body.

E: Contact

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Philip Jenkins, via the school office.

Philip Jenkins

June 2017