



Brent Knoll C of E Primary School Local Governing Body **Annual Report: 2022 -2023**

School governing bodies have three core strategic functions which apply to our School. These are:

- 1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- 2. Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;**
- 3. Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure funds are well spent.**

The Wessex Learning Trust

Brent Knoll Primary School is part of the Wessex Learning Trust (WLT). The Trust has a board of Trustees (see Wessex Learning Trust website) but each school (academy) has its own Local Governing Body (LGB). One WLT Trustee is linked to our school and attended a LGB meeting at Brent Knoll at the end of the year.

Governance Arrangements

Brent Knoll LGB has had changes over the year including sadly losing our Foundation Governor, Mrs Rosemary Keele, who retired after giving over ten years' service to the school. Despite many attempts we have not been able to recruit a replacement. As we finish this academic year we currently have five hard working governors and their details can be found on the school website.

The aim remains to ensure that the LGB reflects our local community and includes people with the skills and experience to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. We continue to review the membership and development needs of the LGB with the aim of ensuring that members actively contribute an appropriate range of skills and experience to support the further progress of the school. We are always pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a governor and feels they could contribute some time and expertise.

The Work of the LGB

Governors are unpaid, but give their time and expertise voluntarily. In 2022-2023 the LGB met as a whole six times over the year. There are some additional committee meetings. A register is maintained of declarations made by governors of any financial or other interests that may have a bearing on decisions made by the LGB.

The focus at the meetings, as always, remains firmly directed at improving outcomes for all pupils by delivering high quality teaching and maximising progress and attainment. Individual governors have specific responsibility for one or more areas of school life. In this capacity visits to school are made to meet with the appropriate school staff to monitor the impact of activities relating to the Annual Improvement Plan (AIP). They also gather information through questionnaires, informal observations and discussion with members of staff and pupils. They ask questions, challenge when necessary and seek evidence. This is reported to the LGB as a whole.

Governors discuss key data, looking at the results of pupil achievement and progress against local and national achievements, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. They are also concerned with the needs of our more disadvantaged children and focus on how grants such as Pupil Premium and Sport Premium are being spent by the school and what impact this has on pupil outcomes. The amount from the Pupil Premium grant received by the School is determined by the number of children who are eligible for free school meals and we encourage all parents whose children are entitled to free school meals to register for these. You can find more information about the different initiatives and their impact on children's learning and well-being on the school's website.

Curriculum, Assessment and Progress

Last year saw all national tests return as normal after the disruption caused by Covid – 19 and this year results will be reported nationally. The Year 6 results at Brent Knoll can be celebrated as being extremely good and reflect the hard work of the teachers and pupils.

The school continued a focus on writing this year along with the WLT led project on Speech, Language and Communication. Teachers have been able to take advantage once more of sharing good practice and training opportunities across the Wessex Learning Trust and improved progress has been seen across the school. Maths remains a strength of the school.

This year a new two year curriculum rolling program was introduced across the school and, as always, the themes of the 'Jigsaw' program covering all the important elements of moral, personal, social and emotional development, were woven in. This program is the backbone supporting the school's ethos and values.

At the beginning of this school year the school, alongside the nation at large, mourned the death of the Queen, but in May celebrated the coronation of King Charles III. School trips, ranging from a day in London to a visit to the Glastonbury Rural Life Museum and an activity week for the older children have all enhanced learning experiences. The end of year performance of The Wizard of Oz was a real highlight and a great finale for the members of Year 6 who left us to attend King Alfred's and Hugh Sexey Middle School. The weekly newsletter continues to report on all celebrations and achievements over the course of the year.

At some point in the year ahead, the school will have a SIAMS inspection, which is an inspection led by the Church of England for all church schools. The purpose of a SIAMS inspection is to explore the ways in which each school's theologically rooted Christian vision drives its work and enables the school to live up to its foundation as a Church school. As well as a SIAMS inspection, we are due to be visited by Ofsted as well. Ofsted, particularly, will be interested to hear parents' views on how the school is doing.

The school continues to be oversubscribed and the new classroom, which arrived last September, allowed an increase in pupil numbers. In September 2023, the school will open with 150 pupils and is now full. The pre-school has gone from strength to strength and is also full to capacity for the coming term, though Mr Burman is always happy to show prospective parents around.

Staff Update

The school said goodbye to Miss Deacon in December. She had led the development and improvement of maths teaching and learning across the school for many years; Mrs Baker has taken over the leadership of this subject. From January, Miss Tunks increased her teaching hours to take over Phoenix Class alongside Mrs Latham. In the spring term, we were able to congratulate Mrs Bond who, over the past two years, has been working hard to gain Qualified Teacher Status. Miss Hill went on maternity leave at the end of Term 5 and Mrs Bond has taken over Kitsune class as the class teacher to cover Miss Hill's leave. Over in pre-school, Miss Wood returns from her

maternity leave to take on the room leader role which Mrs Bennett has so ably covered for the last year.

Other teachers, such as Mrs Stockham and Miss Richens continue to have leadership roles within the Wessex Learning Trust. Some restructuring within the Trust has meant that Miss Richens' own role within school will change in the new school year as she is now Deputy Head, rather than Senior Teacher. Like Mrs Bond, several members of the support staff have undertaken a range of training opportunities, often in their own time, and their contribution to school development is increasingly important. The Brent Knoll LGB remains committed to supporting the school in maintaining the good level of classroom support that it has had over many years.

Contacting the Local Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. You can see the full list of Governors on the governance page of the School website. Minutes of LGB meetings are public documents and you can ask the Clerk to the LGB if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

Contact: Lisa Lodge, Clerk to the LGB: LLodge@Brentknollprimaryschool.org.uk

On behalf of the Local Governing Body, I would like to thank all parents/carers and other family members and friends for their continued support of the school.

Sue Owen

Chair of the Local Governing Body at Brent Knoll Primary School (August 2023)