



EYNSHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Beech Road, Eynsham, Witney, Oxon OX29 4LJ

Headteacher Mrs V Bayliss Chair: Dr H Emery

Annual Report of the School Governors to Eynsham Parish Council AGM

March 2021

Over the past year, the major focus has been – as everywhere – on working in a global pandemic, when schools have been closed, partially open or fully open. The top priority has been to ensure clear strategic direction, rooted in Government and Public Health advice. This has involved carrying out frequent risk assessments, safeguarding the wellbeing of the school community and continuing to provide excellent teaching, both remotely and face-to-face. The School staff have risen to the challenges of ensuring a safe school environment as well as high quality distanced learning via Google Classroom, and Governors and staff alike have been encouraged and impressed by the response of pupils and their families in this difficult time. Despite the disruption to the children's education, pupils are progressing and targeted catch-up support is being provided with further planned when school can reopen fully, while at the same time making sure that those who have made good progress remain challenged and engaged. The importance of looking after the wellbeing of staff and pupils is kept in mind at all times.

The challenges and disruptions of the past year have not prevented the school from focusing strategically on areas for school improvement. This has included the development of a new curriculum which is designed to build on children's prior learning through the use of Knowledge, Concepts and Vocabulary Organisers (KCVs). Knowledge is the core element of our curriculum and all our curriculum experiences and skills development are centred on subject-based knowledge progression. Only once these 'building blocks' of knowledge are securely in place can 'higher-order' thinking occur. Recent achievements involving the curriculum are the achievement of the Music mark and PE silver award and the school becoming a flagship school for its delivery of Personal, Social, Emotional and Health Education.

A particular area of focus is to build on and strengthen our community relationships. Improved communication is key to this and newsletters from the Board and Headteacher are now regular features. A working group that includes staff, parents and governors has been looking at rebranding the school and its uniform, while the PTA continues to do invaluable work in terms of financial support and community cohesion. A 'virtual tour' is on the school website, designed to give prospective parents an insight into daily life at ECPS in non-COVID times.

There is an increasingly closer and beneficial working relationship between Eynsham Primary and the other schools in the Eynsham Partnership Academy Trust, which comprises Bartholomew and Heyford Park schools, and five other local primaries. This brings benefits to staff and pupils alike, through sharing of best practice and development opportunities.

Teaching and learning improvements must be supported by secure financial management and, despite reductions in national funding, there is strong and prudent

financial leadership in the School, alongside innovative strategic planning, both of which are strongly supported by the EPA. The number of pupils on the school roll plays a significant part in the School's income and we are really encouraged by the size and growth of our Nursery, thanks to the excellent practice in this area. Efforts to improve the buildings are ongoing, with capital grants and government funding continuing to be sought.

Hilary Emery is Chair of Governors of this thriving community school ably supported by Paul Davies (Vice-Chair), Shona Bragg, Victoria Clark, and Lisa Denbow, and Ginny Bayliss (Headteacher). The Board is also supported in specific areas by Associate Members: Ros Avery (EPA Chief Finance Officer), James Bird (EPA Director of School Improvement) and Dan Powell (Finance and More Able).

The Board has transitioned from a Rapid Improvement Board to a Local Governing Board, following the successful Ofsted Inspection in September 2019 which resulted in the School being graded as 'Good'. Governors who have stepped down in the last 18 months, Lorna Shires (Chair) and James Clark, contributed to significant improvements in teaching and learning and improved behaviour for learning and we thank them for their service.

The Board actively contributes to the School's strategic direction, focusing on key areas for improvement as well as long term planning for finance and infrastructure improvements. By working alongside the School's strong leadership team led by Ginny Bayliss, the Board ensures stability and consistency, and monitors the implementation of an agreed School Development Plan. The School has continued to improve since the Ofsted 'Good' outcome and plans for the future are ambitious. We have admiration for, and pride in, a very special and unified body of staff who have completed a transformation of our School, our amazing children who have worked so hard and the families who have supported them.

2020 was a difficult year, to say the least, but one which has brought successes for the school and its community as well as challenges. The Governors thank the school community, particularly the staff for their cheerful and positive attitude in the midst of so many restrictions, as well as pupils and families for their ongoing co-operation and support.

School Governors, as at March 2021, are as follows:

Governors	Appointed by
Hilary Emery (Chair)	EPA
Shona Bragg	Parents
Victoria Clark	EPA
Paul Davies (Vice Chair)	EPA
Lisa Denbow	LGB (Staff, non-teaching)
Ginny Bayliss (<i>ex officio</i>)	(<i>Headteacher</i>)
Associate Members	
Dan Powell	LGB
Ros Avery (Finance)	EPA
James Bird (School Improvement)	EPA
<i>Clerk: Kit Howells</i>	

The School website <https://www.eynsham.oxon.sch.uk/> provides further information.

*Hilary Emery
Chair, Local Governing Board, Eynsham Community Primary School
March 2021*