

Crowthorne Church of England Primary School

Governors' Report 2024 / 2025

Inspiring and enabling our school community to live life to the full



Introduction

Welcome to this year's Governors' report. The Governance of the school focusses on three key areas: 1) Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; 2) Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school, its pupils and the performance management of staff and, 3) Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure money is well spent. The Governing body of Crowthorne CofE Primary school is obliged by statute to report details regarding the school along with other information that is both useful and relevant to parents. This report meets that statutory obligation for the academic year 2024/2025.

A Year in Review 2024 / 2025

The academic year started with new leadership at the school with Mrs Hicks commencing as the Head Teacher. This coincided with the on-going expectation of an OFSTED inspection which was long overdue having been delayed not least by the COVID pandemic. The last full inspection of the school took place in January 2014. With a full roll, and staffing complement, 2024/2025 was set to be a new year of inspiration for the staff and children of the school.

The Autumn term is always occupied with prospective parents for the next academic year taking part in "school tours" which were ably hosted by the Year 6 children, with over sixty families visiting. The three Inset days in the first term were very much used by Mrs Hicks to set the school's strategic direction, develop the curriculum strategy and focus on professional development and well being. All of this ensured that the rhythm of daily school life was positively maintained with the Senior Leadership Team and that every child continued to receive the best prospects for their personal development.

During the Spring term, the OFSTED inspection was finally carried out (see separate section) and this not only gave the school a fantastic outcome but significantly relieved the pressure (and stress) on staff and governors to be "ready" every week. A hectic diary for the children included Children's Mental Health Week, World Book Day, Comic Relief and Science week in what was one of the shortest Spring term's on record. The desire to enrol children in the school continued, as did the school tours! Interaction with other schools through sporting events continued in earnest across all years, including a football event, KS1 cricket and sportshall athletics.

Summer term has seen no let-up in the pace! Whole school activities including Sports Day, Tray Days and Class Swap day have been scheduled into the busiest period which also covers end of year assessments for all year groups (including statutory items). There were over thirty one wider opportunities for the children across the school during the term, ranging from the Choir performing at the Hexagon through to a PTA disco, the school council and eco-team activities and three concerts.

The academic year 2024/2025 demonstrates that the school continues to provide wide opportunities for learning and personal development along with a diverse set of extra curricular activities. Once again, it is a credit to all stakeholders: staff, parents, carers, governors and of course, the children themselves that the year has been so memorable with great achievements and attainment. The school has a relentless focus on "Every Child Matters" improving outcomes for children and young people, particularly in the areas of safety, health, education, and well-being.

Head Teacher's reflection on the first year at Crowthorne CofE school

"The children here are fantastic and make every day a pleasure; even on the trickier days, of which there have been a few, the children never fail to make me smile and remind me of why I came into teaching and then became a school leader."

Mrs Hicks - HeadTeacher

Chair of Governors' reflection

"This year we welcomed our new Headteacher Mrs Hicks to the school. We, as Governors, are delighted with the smooth transition of the leadership which we have experienced and, whilst there have been some changes made to a few aspects of the running of the school, they have been done with the aim of improving the children's education and welfare and the well being of the school's hard working staff."

Tony White – Chair of Governors

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"The school is an oasis of calm. Starting from the early years, pupils learn to follow the clear routines and boundaries. They build strong relationships. Social times are extremely harmonious occasions. Pupils enjoy making dens and playing on the trim trail. They actively look out for the well-being of others."

Shazia Akram – His Majesty's Inspector 2025

OFSTED Inspection

The official inspection of schools and the outcomes of the Inspector's findings are key to maintaining the national standards of our schools. Crowthorne CofE school had its last formal inspection on 29th January 2014 and therefore the next OFSTED inspection has been well overdue. The staff and governors have all been prepared for the inspection in recent years, however readers should not underestimate the impact on stress and well-being, waiting for the day to come. For those unfamiliar, the school has no notice of when the inspection is to be. The first notice the Head Teacher receives is a telephone call before 2pm on a Monday. The inspection then commences immediately, and is concluded by Wednesday. That evening the inspector will then formally feed back to the Headteacher and then the governing body verbally. There is no further deliberation or consideration from the inspector; it is then purely a matter of writing up the formal assessment, some internal due diligence at OFSTED and then publication. It is fast paced, highly structured and definitive in its execution.

The inspection date for the school was the 4th and 5th of February 2025 and involved two inspectors. The inspectors carried out the graded inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. During a graded inspection, they grade the school for each of the key judgements (quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; personal development; and leadership and management) and for any relevant provision judgement (early years and/or sixth form provision). Schools receiving a graded inspection from September 2024 do not receive an overall effectiveness grade.

The Quality of Education	Outstanding
Behaviour and Attitudes	Outstanding
Personal Development	Outstanding
Leadership & Management	Outstanding
Early Years Provision	Outstanding

The results of the OFSTED report speak for themselves in terms of the Leadership and Staffing, Teaching and Learning, Governance and local ecosystem that make Crowthorne Church of England school the outstanding school that it is. The narrative that goes with the report demonstrates incredibly strongly that it is the children, their attitudes, behaviours and values that truly make the school level up to its outstanding status.

Some highlights from the inspectors and authors of the report are as follows:

"Pupils thrive in this excellent school. Staff expectations of pupils' personal, social and academic success are sky high. Pupils take tremendous pride in their work. They talk animatedly about their learning. Pupils achieve very well by the end of their time here."

"The school is incredibly aspirational for its staff and pupils. The curriculum in all areas, including early years, is stimulating, creative and promotes deep thinking and discussion. The school has identified meticulously the essential knowledge that pupils will learn step by step. A rich array of trips, visits and visitors to school enhances pupils' tangible enjoyment of the subjects they study. Pupils rightly describe their learning as 'interesting, engaging and great fun'"

You can find the official copy of the OFSTED report at: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>



You can also view side by side school comparisons at: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>

Please note that some schools in Crowthorne fall in the Wokingham Borough Council area and not Bracknell Forest Council and therefore local schools may not show in the comparison if they fall outside of the Bracknell Forest Area under which Crowthorne CofE operates.

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"Leaders and governors have an accurate view of the school's performance. They are united in their vision to provide the very best opportunities for pupils and their families. Parents rightfully endorse the quality of education their children receive. Staff appreciate the training they receive to become excellent teachers. They find their workload reasonable."

OFSTED Inspector

The NGA (National Governance Association)

The NGA is the national membership association for governors, trustees, and governance professionals in England's state schools and trusts. The NGA create research and insights to provide trusted information, advice and professional development to governing boards (such as Crowthorne CofE's Governing Boards). As part of this, training is provided and taken up by the Governors across many topics to support us in our role with the school. At the same time, there are statutory (and advisory) training that we periodically re-certify with around topics such as Prevent and Safeguarding.

In 2025 there are four key themes from the NGA that are:

Breaking Down Barriers - a focus on children, families and communities and focusing inline with the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. This includes topics such as breakfast clubs and pre-loved school uniform service.

New Ofsted inspection framework – work with Ofsted to ensure that the reforms of the inspection process address fear around inspection

Achieving a 'broad, inclusive and innovative' curriculum – A review and recommendations is coming very soon

Building and Supporting the Workforce – pay, recruitment and well being remain challenges that need addressing.

The NGA is a valuable resource for us as Governors to execute our daily task of "support and challenge"

SATS Outcomes 2024 / 2025

	Expected+	Greater Depth
Reading	93%	73%
Writing	93%	17%
Maths	90%	57%
SPaG	97%	57%
Combined	87%	17%

Attainment data is not officially finalised until the Autumn term (when local and national averages are also confirmed).

Extra-Curricular Clubs & Sporting Events

The ability to offer children activities outside of the academic realm is incredibly important to their development. The school is able to offer these either at lunchtime or after school.

Some of these clubs support opportunities for the children to participate in friendly and competitive cross school events such as athletics and football and cricket and other clubs present opportunities to a wider public audience such the Choir, performing at the Hexagon in Reading.

Clubs include: Fencing, Judo, Dance, Chess, TV & Film, Choir, Football (Boys and Girls separately), Tennis, Outdoor club, archery and athletics.

Professional Development of Staff

The professional development of staff is a key area of focus for Governors and was highlighted as hugely positive by OFSTED. Staff have positive and frequent opportunities for professional development, and the right leadership and support in their role not only deliver improved outcomes for the children. Staff meetings are targeted around the School Improvement Plan (SIP) such as Challenge in Maths, Writing Moderation, R.E. and SEND topics. Individual staff also get the opportunity for externally provided training and networking such as:

- English, Maths, RE and EYFS network meetings
- Mobius Maths Hub training
- SENDCo, PPG and Assessment forums
- SIAMs training (with the diocese) for the HT
- Leadership coaching for both the HT and DHT
- Powerful Principal Programme for the HT
- EYFS moderation meeting

Readers may also be interested to learn that INSET days are in themselves very full days for staff in terms of topics that they cover as the school year evolves. As an example, during the spring term the INSET day focussed on:

- A review of Ofsted feedback
- Reviewing and developing the Marking and Feedback policy
- Foundation subject planning (especially geography and history)
- Curriculum documentation and streamlining documents used
- Training on the use of manipulatives in maths

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Opportunities for children in school

"The school's work to promote pupils' character is exceptional. Pupils have an excellent understanding of spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of life..." is an extract from the OFSTED report. Such character building not only comes from the Extra Curricular activities that the children engage in (see separate section) but also through the range of opportunities in school that are not academically classroom centric. 2025 was a busy year as evidenced by all of the following in action:

- Open the Book & Church assemblies
- Yr5 and Yr6 residentials
- Various trips: Odds Farm (Yr R), Wisley (Yr 1), Windsor Castle (Yr2), Butser Farm (Yr3), Ufton Court (Yr4)
- Several local area visits
- Choir performances at St. John's & the Hexagon
- Medical talks for Yrs 4 & 6, CPR training for Yr6
- PTA Discos & Yr6 Silent Disco
- Tray Days
- Prayer spaces
- Sports Day & sports coaching opportunities
- School council, eco-team and reading ambassadors meeting regularly & taking action
- Walk to School Week & Parish Council Green Week
- Class assemblies
- KS2 Production – Pirates of the Curry Bean!
- Christmas Performances
- Harvest assembly
- Internet Safety Day
- Yr5 Latin, Yr5 Spanish, Yr6 French Lessons
- Yr6 Science at Wellington Prep
- Rocksteady concerts
- String ensemble & Piano and woodwind concert

Good Luck and Best Wishes

The Governing Body send **our best wishes to all of our Year 6 Leavers**. With a full roll for 2025 / 2026 we also look forward to welcoming new families in September.

Please note that Wednesday 3rd September 2025 is an INSET Day and therefore the whole school returns for Autumn Term on:

THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2025

The start of school is 08:45 with the gates open at 08:35 so please ensure a safe and prompt return for the new school year.

Enjoy the summer !

School Data (Summer 2025)

Number on Roll: 210
 Attendance Rate: 97.1%
 >99% Attendance: 28.1%
 <90% Attendance: 4.3%

Governing Body

The school Governing Body is a statutory requirement for the effective oversight and governance of the school. The school's governing board is responsible overall for the conduct of the school and must lead the school with a view to promoting high standards of achievement. It should fulfil its functions in a strategic way. It is important that the Governing Body do not interfere in the day-to-day management and running of the school which is ably achieved through the Head Teacher, the SLT and staff. The Governing body is also there to ensure that all activities and areas of focus or ethos are evidenced and core matters such as Safeguarding are effectively and continually executed.

There is a full complement of governors; we would like to thank the long service of John Lindsay and Gail Robertson who have retired from the board and during the academic year and welcome Mrs Annette Bryant after the recent election to fill a Parent Governor vacancy.

All current Governors, their register of business interests, meeting attendance and other information for transparency can be found on the school website.

Resources & Statutory Information

Please keep yourself informed by taking note of the school newsletters and visiting the school website: <https://www.crowthornecofe.co.uk/>

It is regularly kept up-to-date with copies of the school policies, newsletters, information for parents and children along with more details on Governance.

There is also statutory information the school must provide in respect of matters such as our Data Protection and Data Access Policies.

Don't forget to subscribe to the school Twitter feed on social media and the Friends of Crowthorne CofE a not for profit organisation



@crowthornecofe



@friendsofcrowthorneCE