

Crowthorne Church of England Primary School

Governors' Report—2022 / 2023

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 are 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 2022/2023

A Year in Review—2022 / 2023

The Academic Year of 2022/2023 started in September with the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact slowly disappearing as a distant memory. However, the impact of the War in Ukraine and commencement of significant rise on cost of living (especially around Energy and Food costs) has created challenges both for parents and carers, and the school, throughout the entirety of the year. The school maintains strong financial governance and good fiscal viability which is monitored on a monthly basis and benefits from additional funding through Grants, Donations (e.g. Wellington College) and also support of The Friends all of which we are grateful for.

In the Autumn Term the school improved safeguarding with new gates and fences around the car park. With the passing of HM Queen and the annual Remembrance Day, the school continued to integrate national events into the children's understanding. With further growth in social media (e.g. TicTok), awareness continued to be raised with the children on the dangers of age restricted Apps in the world we live in. Rounding off with an all school Christmas performance, Spring Term saw the Eco-Team and Reading Ambassadors push forward in the roles the children both embrace and command. The new website was launched and the huge success of Tray Days continued with World Book day celebrated and the school joining the "Great Big School Clean" just before the highly successful annual Easter Bonnet parade. Dress to Express saw the children raise £200 for Mental Health Charities. Full steam into Summer and another Royal occasion; celebrating the Coronation. The school renewed awareness for on-line safety with the children through the Term, rounding off with Sports Day, Parents Evening and the show "Olivia".

Throughout, the children receive quality Education coupled with ensuring the school community "lives life to the full" !

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

A School Improvement Plan (SIP) is the central document used by Senior Leadership teams to map out their strategic plans for the development of their school. For Crowthorne Church of England primary school there are three (3) key priorities ("KP") that are continually focussed on at a high level, with each one having Autumn, Spring and Summer goals with recorded outcomes.

- ⇒ **KP1: For every child to make good or better progress in all areas**
Encompasses quality of teaching, Induction of new staff, Effective use of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG), Assessment of progress, Ensuring pupils with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) make good progress, Embedding Phonics programme, Maths – challenge and extension for all.
- ⇒ **KP2: For our school community to thrive and demonstrate resilience**
Encompasses supporting good learning attitudes and behaviours, Pupil Voice, Further development of Philosophy for Children (P4C), Behaviour and Positive Playtimes, Well-Being Strategy, Attendance, Development of ELSA role.
- ⇒ **KP3: School Development – Local and National Initiatives**
The White Paper and academisation agenda, The Parent Pledge, Sports Premium, Pupil Premium Strategy, Cluster relationships, OFSTED preparation.

The SIP is continually reviewed by the SLT and updates and discussion occur at each Full Governing Body.

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School Facilities, Clubs and Environment

A comprehensive range of clubs ensures diversity and an extension of the school into the wider community. These include Dance (KS1 & KS2) , Football, Judo , Gym, Acrobatics, Fencing , Film Theatre and Drama Club , Tennis Multi-Skills Sports Club and the Choir. In the Autumn term the new outdoor playground area was completed along with subsidiary landscaping extending outdoor activity further. Governors are very grateful to the Friends for their support to complete.

KS2 Outcomes 2022/23

	%age of pupils working at the Expected Standard + (inc. At Greater Depth)		%age of pupils working at the Expected Standard (inc. At Greater Depth) Reading, Writing & Maths Combined	
	2023	National	2023	National
English Reading	97%	73%	93%	59%
English Writing	93%	71%		
Mathematics	97%	73%		
GPS	84%	72%		

GPS - Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling

Diocese

The school with its strong Church of England connections was delighted to welcome Revd Laura Wheatley Downs in September 2022. Growing up in Wokingham and then finally returning to the area she has a husband Ned, a daughter Sophia and a dog called Bilbo.

Laura maintains a very active role with the school and has a key position on the Governing Body.

Roll 2022/2023

Number on roll: 210
Attendance: 96.4%
Mix: Girls: 43.54% Boys: 56.46%

OFSTED

The school's last OFSTED inspection was in February 2014. At that point the school was rated Outstanding. With the inspection schedule impacted by COVID-19 the school continues to anticipate an imminent inspection. Earlier in 2023 the national press highlighted the tragic consequences of the potential outcome of such inspection at nearby Caversham Primary school. The Governors have noted how this event has adversely impacted staff morale and raised concerns about the certainty of the inspection process. In March 2023 a Wellbeing Tool was used to measure specific topics which highlighted focus areas for improved SLT and staff wellbeing. As a result, a wide range of changes were made in school to reduce pressure on our staff and also offer a range of voluntary external social activities to strengthen morale. Governors have worked closely with the Headteacher and staff to show their appreciation of their contribution to the school's success. This is done in many ways from ad hoc words of encouragement, classroom attendance, supporting school activities to periodic structured discussions on staff wellbeing. Staff tell us they feel valued, appreciated and well supported

In the school's prior inspection, the areas for further development were: noted as "*Ensure that higher attaining pupils make as much progress in writing as they do in reading and mathematics.*"

The Governing Body have noted that the Staff have worked hard to ensure the more able pupils are challenged, with more children achieving Level 6 (now 110+ / GDS) 2022 results showed that the overall achievement of our higher attaining pupils was above the national average in all areas. Writing is also a key focus in subsequent School Improvement Plans. When the curriculum was reviewed, it was ensured that writing and reading were at the heart of it. Most importantly, both Staff and Children have the same expectations for writing across the curriculum.

The school staff and Governors have been preparing for this eventuality for the full school year and will continue to do so as it is an iterative and continuous process. Some other [primary] schools in the area have had their inspections already such as Uplands in Sandhurst (Previously Outstanding, now Good) , Owlsmoor in Sandhurst (remains Good) and New Scotland Hill (remains Good). Crowthorne Church of England School continually self-monitors via a School Evaluation Form (SEF) and this is then observed and reviewed by the Bracknell Forest STEP (STandards and Effectiveness Partner) who wholly agreed with the school as "Outstanding" in rating.

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Good luck and Best Wishes

The Governing body send our best wishes to all our Year 6 Leavers. With a full roll for 2023/2024 we also look forward to welcoming new families in September. School re-opens for Autumn Term on

Tuesday 5th September 2023

The School Vision In Action

“Inspiring and enabling our school community to live life to the full; Promoting excellence and nurturing compassion, courage, honesty, hope, thankfulness, trust and respect For every child to thrive and demonstrate resilience, and for all pupils to make good or better progress in all areas. “

Having a strong school vision and ethos is critical to the underpinning of the values to which staff, pupils and stakeholders alike operate. As a Governing body we believe that this vision and ethos can flow into the community and prepare the children for the best start in life. It is really important for the overall “well being” of the school and underpins OFSTED review.

The Curriculum, in conjunction with school attendance is not solely about academic achievement. The core pillars to achieving this are to create: 1) Successful Learners who enjoy learning, make good progress and achieve well; 2) Confident Individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives and 3) Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society. The key measure of success in this approach (what the school determines as a “progression model” curriculum is from their secondary schools who consistently conclude that children are ready for the next stage of learning and, end of Key Stage Two (KS2) data. A significant aspect of the “confidence and responsible” tenet is that of delivering education in a culture of high challenge / low threat which means that children gain confidence in asking adults for assistance and by return, the adults can address any mis-communication, perceptions or mis-understanding at a very early stage. This ethos very much instils a respect of perspective, creates natural tolerance for differences and encourages “keeping up” rather than “catching up” to those children who find particular tasks either challenging or more demanding. To ensure a completely rounded view, an anti-racism and unconscious bias audit was executed at the end of 2019 to ensure our curriculum represents an accurate picture of Britain, British history, our community and the world.

Staffing , Staff Development and Well-Being

Having a full complement of staff and maintaining and nurturing Staff Development is key to delivering consistent provision to the children. Staff Meetings are planned around immediate needs and the SIP. Topics covered range from RE – Progression in the Curriculum, Whole School Book Looks in a variety of subjects and SEN – Learning Pathways as examples. Educare Online training provides a wide range of training opportunities for all staff. Each member of staff was asked to select a course that interested them and they were then given staff meeting time to complete this. As staff well-being remains a core focus, the aim is to have Key Stage meetings when necessary, rather than being timetabled fortnightly. Staff have also been given an IN-SET day and Staff Meeting time to write the End of year reports for the children.

Friends of CofE School

The Friends mission is to enhance the experiences of the children attending the school, by not only raising funds, but also giving experiences and making memories. Activities this year have included Christmas Fair, Christmas hamper raffle, Bag2school, three school discos, Easter colouring and bingo, adult quiz night, preloved uniform sales and the Circus. This has raised almost £10,000 in this academic year through peoples generosity and subsidising some of those experiences for the hardest hit by the cost of living challenges. This has enabled The Friends to provide: £200 to each class teacher to spend on resources/activities of their choice, including a first aid course for Yr6 and new triple easel for Reception. At the same time as supporting Sports day and Theatre company performances, they also made HM Coronation celebrations special by providing an paid-for ice cream van visit and time capsule along with medals for each child at a cost of £1,550. The Friends also make significant contributions to the school infrastructure with £8,000 being donated for new playground markings which has now commenced work. The Governors and school whole-heartly thank the Friends for their hard work and contribution to school.

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New Web Site Investment

We trust that you are aware of the completely re-vamped WebSite for the school at: <https://www.crowthornecofe.co.uk/>

The school website had not be overhauled for over five years but the small investment made to the “shop front” of the school was important for many reasons. Firstly, it should be the “go to” reference for parents and carers with children at the school and as such should be easy to find the information you need, and have it readily updatable. At the same time, for people potentially coming into the area it is an opportunity to show how the school shines in every aspects of the Vision. At the same time we are able to publish the statutory information required and maintain it in a timely manner. We hope you’ve had the opportunity to take a look. We very much thank those parents who authorised the use of images to bring the site to life.

“Eco Anxiety” in Young Children

During May to August of 2022 Save the Children surveyed three thousand (3000) children across the UK with regards their view on Climate Change and the results were that 70% of them are worried about the world they will inherit and some felt “powerless and scared”. The topic is too large to cover in this Annual Report however the School Leadership Team have recognised what is known as “Eco Anxiety” are working on themes with the children to help manage these fears. The school children have their own strong “Eco Team” and Action Plan centred around School Grounds, Energy and Biodiversity . At same time, Bracknell Forest Borough Council are introducing further Eco-Friendly measures such as installing LED lighting and looking at Solar Panels in schools. Whilst the school view this as part of both building awareness and working with children’s Well Being the Governing Body would strongly recommend that Parents and Carers also join in the conversation by taking some time to review “Eco Anxiety” in the Internet and continuing those discussions with children outside the school setting.

Governing Body

A strong Governing body is there to “Support and Challenge” the SLT and staff and to ensure that the statutory duties are carried out. 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 Ruth Jackson, her 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. This school year saw a change in the Chair of Governors with Tony White being duly elected after our former chair Liz Baker wished to step down—Liz continues to serve as a Local Authority Governor at the school. All Governors are volunteers and through the year several vacancies have arisen. The Governing Body has moved quickly to fill these roles as a strong and complete Governing Body is important for the functioning and oversight of the school. All current Governors, their register of business interests, meeting attendance and other information for transparency can be found on the school website.

Well being is mentioned throughout this year’s Annual Report. Governors take this responsibility towards staff and children incredibly seriously; it is a standing agenda item for Full Governing Body meetings. Governors aim to continually promote positive actions and feedback to ensure that all parties feel valued and respected and if necessary given suitable space and time to focus on their individual needs and requirements along with the Chair and Headteacher being in regular dialogue.

Resources & Statutory Information

Please keep yourself informed by 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