



**Annual Governance Statement for Benhall Infants and Pre School 2021-2022**

In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Benhall Infants and Pre School Governing Body are:

1. Setting the strategic direction of the school
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school
3. Ensuring financial health, probity and value for money

**Governance arrangements**

In line with government recommendations the composition of the Governing Body is made up of:

- the Headteacher
- 1 elected staff governor
- 2 elected Parent Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 7 Co-opted governors appointed by the governing body who in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

As in the previous year there have been changes in governor membership during the year. The Chair of Governor’s term of office came to an end in January 2022 and he decided it was time to step down. Dave Filipovic-Carter had been Chair for 5 years. The Vice Chair Pat Palmer resumed her role of Chair until the end of the academic year so as to give new members of the governing body a chance to familiarise themselves with their responsibilities. She is retiring from the Governing Body after 17 years in post. Three new co-opted governors were appointed for terms 5 and 6. There will be vacancies for co-opted governors at the start of the new academic year but the school is anxious to recruit new governors who have the desired skill set but also have no personal relationship to the school. The deputy headteacher held the role of staff governor until September 2022 but considered the roll too much since returning from maternity leave. An experienced KS1 teacher took on the role from September 2022 but left the school at the end of the academic year. The staff governor role will be filled by someone outside of the senior leadership team as this has been beneficial over the last year.

The full Governing Body meets at least six, and usually seven, times each year. Each meeting is preceded (usually 2 weeks before) by a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

	<p>The Pay Committee meets annually to discuss and agree Pay and Performance, and whenever else it is required.</p> <p>The Headteacher’s Performance Management Panel meets twice each year, the first meeting includes an independent consultant to help review and set new targets.</p> <p>There are committees that can meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters. See <b>Appendix A</b> for a list of Governors 2021-2022 and their responsibilities.</p>
<p><b>Attendance record of governors</b></p>	<p>Governors have excellent attendance at meetings this year using a mix of face to face and online attendance which has allowed them to fulfil the full number of planned meetings</p> <p>See <b>Appendix B</b> for details of individual governor’s attendance at meetings.</p>
<p><b>The work carried out by the Governing Body this year</b></p>	<p>The Governing Body is always very thorough in carrying out its strategic responsibilities, in particular focusing on the priorities of the school development plan, which is agreed by the governing body early in Term 1, and monitoring progress data to ensure that the pupils achieve the highest standards they can, made possible by the highest quality of teaching and learning, whilst also developing as independent learners. Due to the continuing impact of the pandemic there has still been a period of catch up from previous years’ priorities. A key focus for this year has been the development of the existing curriculum. Using the strong framework of the existing curriculum which has been embedded at the school for several years the staff team have used current research around providing the children with opportunities to “know and remember more” through a well-constructed curriculum that is carefully sequenced to ensure progress for all learners. This has been an exciting but intense piece of work for the Senior and Middle Leadership Teams, shared with governors, and its positive impact should become even more apparent in the new school year. The reintroduction of subject leads and link governors is raising the profile of all subjects within a broad and balanced curriculum. As this embeds the challenge will be ensuring that the school’s passion for and belief in teaching through continuous provision isn’t lost to a more structured weekly timetable. The headteacher is working collaboratively with the Headteacher at St Mark’s Junior School to ensure that our curriculum prepares the children for transition to KS2. Subject leads from both schools are collaborating on sequences of learning across the primary phases to support this.</p> <p>At the same time the school introduced a new systematic synthetic phonic program, Little Wandle, which has already had a significant and rapid positive impact on pupils’ progress and confidence due to the extreme effort deployed by the reading lead Mrs Pain and all members of staff, including students training in the school, to get themselves confident with the new requirements. Parents have been actively involved in supporting their children. To support the new program the governors have approved investment in a complete set of new reading books that are matched to the progress in phonics acquisition. External assessors work-</p>

ing with the school were very impressed with the speed of improvements and the rigor with which phonic teaching and reading practise is implemented across the school. The English Lead led a presentation on the new program for all Governors which was really informative at a time when Governors were unable to visit school. More recently the link Governor for SEND, link Governor for English and another Governor has observed phonic teaching using the new program. Year 2 External Moderation indicated high praise for how the running records kept by the teachers evidences progress in children's reading and comprehension.

The school used their internal data to identify that children were not making the expected progress in writing following the lockdowns as this was more challenging to teach remotely. While the children were proficient story tellers (using talk for writing) they were not able to sustain varied writing styles that showcased writerly skill and children were not exceeding the expected standard as they were unable to demonstrate flair influenced by tests they had read or heard. The school introduced The Write Stuff, as a pilot in year 1, when the children returned from the most recent lockdown in March 2021 and this was rolled out to year 2 in term 6. KS1 have completed their first full year of teaching writing through the Write Stuff with positive results made in closing the gaps created by the pandemic and the Senior Leadership Team, English Lead and Link Governor for English are confident now this style of teaching is embedding that writing attainment at the end of KS1 will continue to grow in line with or better than national data. The English Lead and the staff governor presented to the FGB how the teaching of writing was changing at Benhall and shared examples of children's books remotely when Governor visits were not possible. This was valuable time for the FGB to hold the head and her team to account about their decision to move to this style of teaching. Since Governor visits have been reinstated the Link Governor for English has visited a key stage 1 lesson to see the teaching in action, talk to the children and look at how progress is demonstrated in the books. Year 2 External Moderation from GCC agreed the writing judgements with the teachers and they were praised on how well the books show a combination of modelled writing and opportunities to independently revisit, rehearse and remember more through provision.

The governors continue to support Miss Morris as she manages the day to day challenges not only of curriculum change but also pupils' social and emotional well-being which are still feeling the impact of Covid isolation for such a significant period of their early development. Governors offer both guidance and support as appropriate. The safeguarding of pupils remains a key focus of the school and the Safeguarding governor regularly meets with Miss Morris as DSL. Close financial scrutiny is also maintained in relation to the appropriate use of pupil premium and sports premium funding.

With the relaxation of the majority of pandemic restrictions the school has been able to allow both parents and governors to take a more interactive part in the life of the school which is really welcome by all. Governors have at last been able to visit classrooms and see learning taking place which they then feed back to the rest of the governors. The end of year summer fete and the Year 2 leavers' pro-

	<p>duction of the Lion King to packed audiences of parents and grandparents was a positive end to a difficult period.</p> <p>The Finance and General Purposes Committee monitors the status of Benhall Infant School and the Extended Provision through Benhall Pre-School and After School Club with regard to finance, personnel and building issues and feeds back its findings to the Full Governing Body. The committee is responsible for completing and submitting to County the annual Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) report. It engages in benchmarking against statistical neighbours and this provides a positive view of the way the school is managed financially. It agrees the School's Annual budget. With the sharp rise in all costs it is getting increasingly difficult to maintain a positive budget and governors are keeping a sharp focus on the impact of the extreme rise in energy costs. Their focus however is always on effectively managing school's resources so as to be able to offer the best education we can for all the stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>Future plans for the governors.</b></p>	<p>2022-23 will continue to be a challenging year for all concerned. There will be significant changes in the Governing Body who will take up these challenges along with preparation for the anticipated Ofsted inspection that still has not materialised. However the hard work put in by staff, governors, pupils and the support of the vast proportion of the parent community puts the school in a good place for the year ahead.</p>
<p><b>How you can contact the governing body</b></p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents, grandparents, carers, neighbours and anyone else with an interest. Please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office or by email: <a href="mailto:Chair@Benhall.gloucs.sch.uk">Chair@Benhall.gloucs.sch.uk</a></p>

**Appendix A Governor Roles and Responsibilities 2021-2022**

<b>Governor</b>	<b>SDP Link</b>	<b>Committees &amp; Panels</b>	<b>Roles</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Tim Aldred</b>				Parent Governor
<b>Rebecca Bilton (maternity)</b>				Staff Governor
<b>Dave Filipović-Carter Chair</b>	New KS1 & EYFS Curriculum Governance Headteacher Induction	F&GP Staff Dismissal Cttee Headteacher Appraisal Headteacher Recruitment	Named Governor	Co-opted Governor
<b>Toby Lewis</b>	Family Support/Mental Health	F&GP Staff Dismissal Appeal Cttee Pay Committee Headteacher Recruitment	GDPR New Governor Induction	Co-opted Governor
<b>Pat Palmer Vice Chair</b>	Curriculum Recovery Reading & Writing Pre-School	F&GP Staff Dismissal Appeal Cttee Pupil Discipline Cttee Headteacher Appraisal Headteacher Recruitment	Safeguarding	LA Governor
<b>Judith Price</b>	Pupil Premium/SEND New Headteacher Induction	Staff Dismissal Cttee Pupil Discipline Cttee Headteacher Recruitment	SEN and Pupil Premium LAC Catch-Up Funding Sports Premium	Co-opted Governor
<b>Nicky Morris</b>		F&GP Pay Cttee		Headteacher
<b>Amy Spring-Wallis</b>				Parent Governor
<b>Laura Stevenson</b>	RSHE	Staff Dismissal Appeal Cttee Pupil Discipline Cttee		Co-opted Governor
<b>Michelle Cant</b>				Co-opted Governor
<b>Mark Clements</b>				Co-opted Governor
<b>Clare Whitcomb</b>				
<b>Julie Evans</b>		F&GP		Clerk

Appendix B      Governors' Attendance 2020-21

	FGB – 27 <sup>th</sup> September	FGB – 11 <sup>th</sup> October	FGB - 6 <sup>th</sup> December	FGB - 24 <sup>th</sup> January	FGB – 21 <sup>st</sup> March	FGB – 16 <sup>th</sup> May	FGB – 4 <sup>th</sup> July		F&GP – 9 <sup>th</sup> November	F&GP – 21 <sup>st</sup> November	F&GP – 11 January	F&GP – 8 <sup>th</sup> March	F&GP – 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	F&GP – 21 <sup>st</sup> June
Tim Aldred	✓	☒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Rebecca Bilton	☒	☒												
Dave Filipović-Carter	✓	✓	✓				■		✓	✓				
Chris Hale	☒	☒	✓	☒					☒	✓	☒	☒		
Toby Lewis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pat Palmer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Judith Price	✓	✓	✓	✓	☒	✓			✓	☒	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nicky Morris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amy Spring-Wallis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Laura Stevenson	✓	✓	✓	✓	☒	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
Linda Bennett									✓	✓	☒	☒	✓	✓
Lisa Jackson				✓	☒	✓	✓							
Mark Clements							✓							
Michelle Cant							✓							

Clare Whitcomb							✓								
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✓ = Present, A = Apologies, ✕ = Absent