

Governors' Report to Parents 2023 – 2024

The Governing Board

Rosemary Tong has continued as Chair of the Governing Board. The Board said farewell to Mike Dyer who came to the end of his term of office in the summer term, having made a substantial contribution to the school over the years. The Board comprises an experienced, skilled and dedicated team of governors but will be seeking new recruits for the 2024/25 year, to include two parent governors. The committee structure has remained unchanged, with committee for Finance and Premises and Curriculum and Assessment.

Our surveys indicate that the large majority of our parents are happy with the education provided by the school, but the Governors welcome feedback and comments from parents through the clerk to the Governing Body who will also provide information to parents who wish to make a complaint (JMcHugh@cranbornemid.dorset.sch.uk)

Role of the Governing Board

Performance management

The Chair and Vice Chair meet frequently with the senior staff. They undertake the annual performance management of the headteacher, supported by an external adviser.

Strategic Direction

Having decided that the school's best interests are served by joining an academy trust group of schools, the governors have continued to work towards joining the Hamwic Academy Trust. This has so far not been agreed by the Regional Director but the governors are still seeking a way forward.

Educational Performance

The Governors hold the school leaders to account for the school's educational performance by scrutinising regular assessment of pupil progress. Each governor has a link with a subject leader, holds a termly meeting and reports back through the Curriculum and Assessment Committee. This year we were very pleased to note that the school exceeded the national average for pupil attainment on all the major indicators; and exceeded the national averages for pupil attendance.

Finance

The financial performance is scrutinised by the Finance and Premises Committee. Detailed analysis of data is produced regularly by one of the assistant headteachers so that governors can keep abreast of development and plan for the future.

During the year the senior staff and governors have continued to review the declining number of pupils in the area and the effect of this on the school's finances and organisation. In view of the significant drop in pupil numbers for the

foreseeable future, the governors, in consultation with the Local Authority have decided to reduce the intake from 3 to 2 forms of entry and planning is well underway to manage the implications of this major change for both the curriculum and staffing.

Progress

The school has continued to set ambitious targets in line with the strategic aim of achieving high standards. This is being achieved, as outlined above. There has been good progress with development plans, including major changes to rewards and sanctions in development of the behaviour policy. The school also continues to develop effective approaches to teaching and learning.

Focus for 2024/25

As before, the governors have confirmed the school's mission to 'provide and all-round high quality education in a safe and caring environment for children in years 5 – 8 and to prepare them for the next stage in their education'. The governors have held conversations with staff and pupils and have confirmed the following priorities for the next academic year:

- Quality of education: Improvements in curriculum design, with a focus on writing; metacognition; KS 2 outcomes in maths
- Behaviour and Attitude: Behaviour for learning; a better understanding of differences and diversity
- Personal development: Focus on well-being
- Leadership and Management: Planning for reductions in pupil numbers

Future Challenges

The school faces increasing challenges as the reduction in pupil numbers begins to take effect. There is a need to maintain the quality of teaching by continuing to ensure that we have good teaching and non-teaching staff. There are additional financial challenges, as for all schools, in meeting staff pay awards with an increasingly experienced (and therefore expensive) staff.

Parental support

From our recent survey we know that 91% of parents agree or strongly agree that their child does well at our school. We value the support of parents in maintaining their children's positive attitude towards school and their support for homework and for school systems to promote good behaviour. We are still seeking to appoint a parent governor to join the Governing Board.

We have a strong and well-motivate Governing Body, and look to the future development of the school with confidence.

Rosemary Tong, Chair