



Governors' Report to Parents 2022 – 2023

The Governing Board

This was a busy year for the Governing Body. Rosemary Tong was elected as Chair, following the resignation of the previous Chair, Dr Sandi Malpas. There were changes to the composition of the Governing Body as some came to the end of their term of office and others resigned for personal or work reasons. However, new appointments were made and the year ended with a full complement of governors. The committee structure was maintained, with committees for Finance and Premises and Curriculum and Assessment, but with new arrangements for Parent and Pupil Liaison.

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

Role of the Governing Board

Performance Management

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

Strategic Direction

Working with school's senior leadership team, the Governors have kept the strategic direction of the school under close review and to that end have decided that the school's best interests will be served by being part of an Academy Trust. This is because the school would value the support and collegiality of working under the management of a group of like-minded schools. The senior staff and governors sought a Trust which matched the school's ethos and values and which would provide appropriate support. Accordingly, the school made an application to join the Hamwic Trust. Although this was turned down by the Regional Director, the governors were unanimous in seeking to find a way forward to become a member of an Academy Trust.

Educational performance

The Governors hold the school leaders to account for the school's education performance by scrutinising regular assessments of pupil progress, first in the Curriculum and Assessment Committee and subsequently in meetings of the Full Governing Body (FGB). In addition, each governor has a link to a subject leader and meets termly, reporting back to the Curriculum and Assessment Committee.

Financial Performance

The school's financial performance is scrutinised by the Finance and Premises Committee. It

benefits from detailed data analysis undertaken by one of the assistant headteachers. In the year 2022/3 the school returned a balanced budget. During the year it became clear that the numbers in the catchment feeder schools were reducing considerably and set to reduce further. The Governors considered the financial implications of this and took advice from the local Authority. It became clear that the current arrangement of 3 forms of entry would not be sustainable and the governors took the decision to consult on reducing the PAN and operating with two forms of entry in future years, on the grounds that this would be more cost effective.

Progress

The 2022/3 year ended with good progress toward the strategic aim of high standards, with above average results in reading, writing, EGPS and maths. In maths, pupil progress was above the local average but below the national. The school made very good progress in improving attendance so that it exceeded the national average.

Focus for 2023/4

In preparing for the 2023/4 development plan the governors confirmed the school's mission to provide 'an 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 groups of children and with staff and parents, and have confirmed the following priorities for the 2023/4 academic year:

- Quality of education: improvements in writing, learning skills and standards in KS2 maths
- Behaviour and attitudes: behaviour for learning, understanding of diversity
- Personal development: well-being
- Financial management

Future challenges

The school faces significant challenges going forward, not least in adapting the organisation to the reduction in pupil numbers; and financial challenges arising from increased pay awards for staff and the reduced income related to pupil numbers.

Parental support

The governors seek the support of parents in the implementation of the school's new behaviour strategy. Parents can also support the work of the school by encouraging their children to make the most of the opportunities which the school has to offer and to support school activities, including homework. Following the resignation of the school's parent governor we seek to appoint a new parent governor to join the Governing Board.

Rosemary Tong, Chair