

ARBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at Arbury Primary School throughout the course of the 2020-21 academic year.

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government for Arbury Primary School allows for 16 governors across different categories.

The Governing Body Membership currently stands at 13, with 3 vacancies that the Governing Body continues to work hard to recruit to.

Through the course of the 2020-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has lost 2 of governors and gained 3 governors in their place, which has increased the overall capacity and membership of our board.

Over the course of the 2020-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has been chaired by David Maher.

The work of the Governing Body has been supported by Laura Oxley, as Clerk to Governors.

Over the course of the year, Governors at Arbury Primary School demonstrate an overall positive attendance and engagement with their work. Further information about governor attendance can be found on the school website.

The Structure of Governance

As well as meeting as a Full Governing Body, Arbury Primary School also has four committees, in order to ensure sufficient oversight, support and accountability towards areas of identified priority and statutory coverage.

The school names these committees as:

- Curriculum – Curriculum / Teaching and Learning / Assessment
- Finance – Budget setting / BMR monitoring
- Personnel – HR / recruitment / pay committee / HT performance management
- Premises – Maintenance / security / H&S checks

These committees and the Governing Body overall have a continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and manage the updates of school policies aligned to the particular areas of responsibility.

Committees related to particular purposes such as dealing with complaints or exclusions are constituted as they are required, in line with the determining policy guidance.

Impact of the work of the Full Governing Body

Over the course of the last academic year, the Governing Body has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Supporting the school's Risk Assessment with regard to Covid-19 and enabling the safe return to school for children and adults alike
- Receiving updates from the Headteacher to inform their work in response to the pandemic, in order to ensure the continued education and safety of all children
- Overseeing updates with regard to the progress made against the Raising Attainment Plan
- Ensuring that the school has adopted an updated curriculum approach towards teaching children about relationships and sex education, aligned to changes in Government expectations

Impact of the work of the Curriculum Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Curriculum Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Ensuring that children have been able to engage in remote learning with access to suitable devices
- Continuing to keep the school website under review, ensuring key information is published
- Reviewing the policies for all curriculum subjects to ensure consistency and adherence to the expectations made clear in the national curriculum

Impact of the work of the Finance Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Finance Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Responding to changes in SFVS and ensuring that the standard has been met for 2020/21
- Limiting the financial impact of Covid-19 on school finances
- Planning strategically to reduce the school's carry forward by investing in ICT infrastructure and increasing staffing
- Setting a budget which balances at the end of three years

Impact of the work of the Personnel Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Personnel Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Ensuring that the school is fully staffed with teachers for September at an early enough date to ensure the best opportunity to make quality appointments
- Planning strategically for the succession planning of key leaders
- Ensuring the welfare of staff during the pandemic

Impact of the work of the Premises Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Premises Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Ensuring that regular inspections and site walks ensure that Covid-19 safety measures remain in place
- Ensuring an enhance cleaning regime is in place in line with government advice
- Updating the school's Accessibility Plan

Governor Training

Governors' work is collectively, so we are always able to benefit from our different points of view and considerations within meetings. However, the Governing Body has also benefitted from training courses on the following topics throughout the course of the year;

- Safeguarding – in order to effectively fulfil our duties in quality assuring the safeguarding arrangements for all children at Arbury Primary School.
- LA Briefings – in order to remain up to date with latest Local Authority information regarding the approaches towards safe school reopening

Governor Monitoring (Remotely this academic year)

As well as attending meetings, governors are also expected to visit school to understand more about school life and particular areas of priority (typically linked with different areas of the curriculum).

Throughout the course of this year, Governors have undertaken particular monitoring in relation to;

- Safeguarding
- The Curriculum
- Premises, Health and Safety
- Remote Learning

Forward Planning

Following the above impact of 2020-2021, the Governing Body looks forward to returning to a more "normal" structure to its work in the forthcoming academic year. This will include;

- Ensuring that the school is suitably prepared for OFSTED inspection anticipated in 2022/23
- Supporting the school to adopt the new Early Years Framework successfully, to become embedded as part of broader school life
- Continue to identify and narrow the gaps in attainment caused by disruption to learning during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly for those children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding

Other information and contact

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at: <https://arbury.eschools.co.uk/website/governors/10608>. This includes information regarding attendance of governors and their Declarations of Interest.

Alternately, stakeholders are always welcome to engage with the work of the Governing Body by contacting the Chair of Governors via email to office@arbury.cambs.sch.uk regarding the work of the Governing Body.