

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD - For parents and trustees

July 2023

This year all our full governing board meetings and our Resources Committee meetings have been held in person in school. The Teaching & Learning Committee meetings have continued to be held virtually. Over the 2022-23 academic year we have held four FGB meetings, two EOFGB meetings, and for the committees, six Resources, three T&L meetings and one Pay committee meeting.

Apart from attending full governing board meetings throughout the year, every governor belongs to at least one committee and also has an area of responsibility, which often involves visiting school and liaising with the relevant staff member and reporting back.

As a governing board we have three main functions, as set out in the Department for Education's Governance Handbook, which frames the work we do, both in and around our full board meetings and in the work of our various committees:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

1.Strategic direction. Our Strategic Plan, published on the school website, sets out the strategic priorities that will drive our work over three years to achieve our vision, which is that "By 2024 we will have a gold standard curriculum that will lead to excellent academic progress and robust emotional outcomes, whilst holding a cherished position within the community." The plan was reviewed in our first meeting of the year in October 2022. Ian Preston and co-vice chair Jodie Poole have continued their work on marketing the school and helping to increase our roll. They have also monitored the website to make sure it contains all the required information. As our training governor Ian has also advised and signposted governors to suitable guidance or training to ensure that the board has a good range of necessary skills and competencies. I have overseen our admissions process this year, with the Headteacher, to ensure it is transparent and fair. The governing board have continued to oversee the development of our autism resource base, the ARC; the steering group of myself, Polly McMeeking, Lisa Spurgeon and associate governor Professor Barry Carpenter, have met regularly with senior leaders. The ARC is proving to be a great asset to the school and will have its full complement of pupils in September.

2.Educational performance. The Teaching & Learning Committee, chaired by Keith Buncle, is responsible for close monitoring of pupil progress and achievement, analysing in depth pupil data and checking progress and outcomes, including looking at data on groups, e.g. SEND pupils and pupils eligible for PPG. Curriculum monitoring visits by governors to school have continued this year; individual governors have been involved in the subject reviews of History, MFL, PSHE, Computing, Maths and Reading. We also held a group governor monitoring visit to look in depth at how writing is being taught across the school. Polly McMeeking, with support from Keith Buncle and Lisa Spurgeon, carried out a review of the school's provision for pupils with SEND, including provision in the ARC. I have worked with staff governor Amanda Merricks as English lead to look at the impact of the work being carried out to raise standards in reading and writing. Amanda has continued to provide a much needed staff perspective to our governor discussions. Oli Stokes, our newly elected parent governor at the start of the year, has been looking at provision in the Early Years. Polly

McMeeking, Jodie Poole and I successfully carried out the headteacher appraisal process in October, with the guidance of an external advisor.

3. The Resources Committee, expertly led by Lisa Spurgeon, has kept a close eye on the financial management of the school, ensured that the budget is balanced and scrutinised spending plans to ensure value for money. We are fortunate to have a number of governors on the committee who have extensive experience in finance. Lisa has also led the Pay Committee. Hannah Wyld is another financial expert who has this year coordinated the work on the SFVS (Schools Financial Value Standard), and has also reported on the Pupil Premium and Sports Premium grants, ensuring these are evaluated for impact. Jackie Griffiths has worked with school staff on the updating of the Business Continuity Plan.

Apart from the core functions mentioned, the board also takes responsibility for ensuring effective safeguarding procedures are in place and for engaging stakeholders. Keith Buncle, as Safeguarding governor, has continued to bring his expertise to bear in his rigorous examination of the school's processes and procedures. Our new local authority governor, Andy Stanney, has taken on the role of Health & Safety governor; Andy will arrange for regular Health & Safety checks to be carried out and report back to governors with any recommendations.

Possibly the most important task our governing board has had this year has been recruiting a new Headteacher. The process began in January when the panel of five governors – myself, Polly, Ian, Jodie and Lisa – met to draw up the person specification, job description and application pack for prospective candidates. With support from local authority school improvement adviser Ken Bush, we held a rigorous two day interview process in March for the seven shortlisted applicants. The governing board ratified the panel's recommendation for the post and we are looking forward to working with new Headteacher Camilla McGregor when she joins Chaddesley In September.

As a governing board much of our work goes on behind the scenes but we have continued to try our best to be visible in school and maintain communications with parents and stakeholders. Governors have attended parents' evenings throughout the year, been at Open Days and induction meetings for parents of children starting in Reception, and other school occasions and celebrations, including PTFA events. I regularly attend the Monday achievement assemblies and am available to speak to parents after. We have also provided termly updates from the board in the school's newsletter, and have ensured all the required information about the board and the work we do is published on the website. This includes this year's annual audit of how we have fulfilled our statutory duties.

We remain committed to work with school leaders to ensure that Chaddesley Corbett Endowed Primary School continues to provide the highest standard of education for all the children in our care, achieving excellence and building on previous best. We are proud to be part of the Chaddesley family and we look forward to seeing the continued development of the school and a successful future for our children.

Gill Griffiths
Chair of Governors
July 2023