



Governor News March 2023

Our Mission Statement:

To provide a secure, happy and stimulating learning environment in which EVERYONE is valued, spiritual growth is nurtured and potential maximised.

Our Vision:

'Roots will grow down into God's love and keep us strong' EPH3:17

We believe as a community that each child can reach their vocational potential.

We believe each child is of unique worth made in the image of God.

We believe in each child being the best that they can be and finding their place in the world.

We believe in:-
a child's potential
being part of a community
being the best you can be

New Leadership

In September we were delighted to welcome our new Headteacher, Mrs Alana Walch, to the school, and it has been a real pleasure to work alongside Mrs Walch, Mrs Cross and their team. We also changed leadership in the Governing Body, with Mrs Jo Maitland becoming Chair and Mrs Fiona Hegarty taking on the role of Vice Chair.

School Continuous Development

In September the Governors met to finalise the 2022/23 Strategic Priorities and the School Development Plan.

Strategic Priorities 2022-2023. This year, our strategic priorities are:

- **Providing outstanding provision for the CHILDREN.** Underpinned by an excellent School Development Plan.
- **Support to and development of the TEAM.** Critical during this change of leadership of both Headteacher and Chair of Governors.
- **Strengthen COMMUNICATION.** Incorporates internal and external stakeholders and audiences.

School Development Plan 2022-2023. Each year we focus on five key areas to deliver continuous improvement throughout the school. Four areas are led by Mrs Walch and the staff, and the governors lead the fifth area. This year the areas are:

Continuous Improvement Area	How it supports our Mission and Vision	Lead
1. Safeguarding.	Safeguarding is core to our mission to: " <i>Provide a safe, happy .. learning environment</i> ". We hold the school's Safeguarding culture, processes and behaviours at the forefront of all school activity and this priority reflects that.	Mrs Walch, Designated Safeguarding Lead Mrs Hegarty, Safeguarding Governor
2. Curriculum Development.	The effective curriculum is a core part of delivering " <i>a stimulating learning environment</i> " as stated in our mission.	Mrs Walch, Headteacher Mrs Cross, Deputy Head

	It is also integral to our vision: a curriculum tailored to the context of the school really helps children “ <i>reach their vocational potential</i> ” and “ <i>find their place in the world</i> ”.	Governor Education Development and Safeguarding (EDS) committee
3. High quality teaching.	High quality teaching and SEND provision is integral to enabling each child to “ <i>reach their vocational potential</i> ” and to “ <i>be the best they can be</i> ” as described in our vision. It is also a core part of providing the “ <i>stimulating learning environment</i> ” described in our Mission.	Mrs Walch, Headteacher Mrs Cross, SENDCo Mrs Maitland, SEND Link Governor Governor Education Development and Safeguarding (EDS) committee
4. Outstanding quality of education in Early Years.	We recognise that the Early Years provide the foundation for through life learning and underpin each child “ <i>reaching their vocational potential</i> ” and “ <i>being the best they can be</i> ” as described in our vision.	Mrs Walch, Headteacher Mrs Cross, EYFS Area lead Mrs Mellor, EYFS Link Governor
5. Retention, recruitment and Development of Governors	Governors support and challenge the school team in delivering against the Vision and Mission, Statutory responsibilities and the School Development Plan priorities.	Mrs Maitland, Chair of Governors Mrs Hegarty, Vice Chair of Governors Mrs Tuck, Lead for Link Governors

New Governors

Since September we have been delighted to welcome Fiona Hegarty, Trish Blacker, Matt Parfitt and Jack Watkins to the Governing Body. We are very grateful for each of them volunteering to join us. Fiona is a co-opted Governor, and Trish, Matt and Jack are parent Governors. Their biographies can be found on our Governor page on the website.

Thank you to departing Governors

In September our outgoing Chair of Governors, Ella Morgan, became an Associate Governor and we remain indebted to her for all her dedication, commitment and leadership through her term as Chair, particularly during the pandemic. Thank you, Ella.

In September Nicki Sinclair stepped down as an Associate Governor after 19 years of Governance support to our school. It is a huge gift of time and energy that she has given generations of children, and we extremely grateful. Thank you, Nicki.

In December, Andy Willy’s term as a co-opted Governor came to an end. We are hugely thankful to Andy for all the time, thought and contribution he has offered to the school and Governing body. Thank you, Andy.

Changing how we work as Governors

In September we began a year-long trial to adapt how we work as Governors. Previously, we all belonged to one of two committees, Education Development and Safeguarding (EDS) or Finance, People and Premises (FPP). We all then attended Full Governing Body meetings (FGBs), at which

some of the content of EDS and FPP was duplicated to bring the other Governors up to speed. This meant 3 meetings per short term for the staff to attend, and 18 meetings over the school year.

This year we have incorporated the committee structure into our FGB meetings, so that at alternating Full Governing Body meetings we have an EDS or an FPP focus. This is helping us be more efficient; it means that every Governor has an understanding of both EDS and FPP business, and so we can provide better oversight and understanding across the whole school. We too, are working inside the Vision to be *'the best that we can be'* as school Governors.

Strengthening Communication

Throughout this year we have a focus on strengthening communication from our school and Governing Body. Mrs Walch's fortnightly newsletter provides the routine drumbeat of school updates and celebrating success. We are really pleased to see the start of the Online Safety newsletters too. We are working on strengthening links between the Governors and Brinkworth and Dauntsey Parish Councils too. The Parent survey (March 23) and Pupil Voice survey (March 23) will help us understand better how our school community views the school, and where our next areas for development lie. This is really important for helping deliver our vision "*..being part of a community*", so please do give us detailed feedback, and you can always get in touch through our email address if you have an issue, a success or some feedback you would like to offer outside the survey (governors@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk).

Energy efficiency initiative

This year, the school's lighting systems have all been upgraded to LEDs, and placed on infra-red activated timer systems. It is great to be able to announce that the work was completed in the February half term. This has been a big capital project, which will reduce energy expenditure, with environmental and cost-saving benefits. We are hugely grateful to Bristol Diocese and to BEDSA for their grants of funding which enabled this to occur, and to Mrs Metcalfe for her project management of the works. We believe that "*..being part of a community*" in our vision also means we must be mindful of our environmental, social and Christian responsibilities as part of our Global community, and this LED initiative is one way for the school to contribute.

Supporting Parents/Carers in giving feedback, sharing ideas and resolving concerns

The school staff remain your first port of call for giving feedback and for highlighting and resolving concerns. As Governors we are able to provide a positive route for you to give feedback to school or share ideas that you have about how we can continue to enhance and grow our school community. We also provide a route for parents/carers in resolving concerns if you feel unable for any reason to access the school directly to do so, or if you do not feel satisfied with the answer you have received. No organisation is perfect, and as a school we consider the raising of concerns an important way of gaining feedback so that we can continuously support the school in its development. If you need to contact the Governors, the email address to use is: governors@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk.

Making our School Special

As life has returned to something resembling normal after a long period of lockdowns, we hope you and your children have enjoyed the many activities available at school over the last few months. We are grateful to BEDSA for organising discos, competitions, bingo, raffles, uniform and cake sales, and supporting the school in so many other ways too. Thank you so much!

We would also like to express our gratitude to the amazing teaching and administrative staff who work so hard to make school such a positive and nurturing environment for the children. For us as governors, it is a real privilege to work with you and to benefit from your wisdom and experience.

A specific thank you goes to our School Business Manager, Mrs Lauren Metcalfe, who moves onto new and exciting career challenges after Easter. Thank you, Lauren for your excellent and tireless work in support of the school – as a school community, and particularly as Governors, we are so grateful for all of your contributions. Thank you!

We are delighted to welcome Ms Helen Wallace as our new School Business Manager and Mrs Wendy Jones to Upper Site in the role of Teaching Assistant. Welcome to you both!

Finally, the Governing Body would like to thank all parents and carers for your engagement with the school and your children's learning. We look forward to seeing you at the Coronation celebration this term, and at Sports Day later in the year.

I look forward to giving you further information in our annual report which will be sent out in September, at the start of the new school year.

For full details of who is on the Governing Body, please see the Governors area of the school website. Don't forget, if you have any comments or feedback for governors, please catch us in the playground or email your comments to governors@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk.