

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2017

We are delighted to be presenting our annual report to parents and carers as part of our commitment to keeping you informed about the work of the Governing Body and the school.

We hope you find this report of interest and would welcome any questions or comments you may have.



The Governors and their Roles

NAME	TYPE OF GOVERNOR	LINK ROLES AND COMMITTEES
Fiona Dumbelton	Parent	Chair of Governors Safeguarding, Behaviour, Special Education Needs & Pupil Premium Member Standards Committee Member Finance & Staffing Committee
Sarah Morris	Foundation	Vice-Chair of Governors EYFS, English & phonics Chair of Standards Committee
Sue Thomas	Foundation	KS1, RE & Worship Council Member Finance & Staffing Committee
Vikki Bardon	Parent	KS2, Maths & E-Safety/Computing Member Standards Committee
Shaun Morris	Co-opted	Finance & health and safety Chair of Finance & Staffing Committee
<i>Vacancy</i>	Co-opted	
Pam Keen	Headteacher	Member Finance & Staffing Committee
Jenny Cunliffe	Deputy Head	Member Standards Committee
Jackie Tindall	Staff	Member Finance & Staffing Committee

Governor Meetings

All governors are members of the Governing Body, which meets 3 times a year (termly) and a member of the Standards Committee and/or the Finance & Staffing Committee, which also meet 3 times each a year. The Committees have delegated authority to take decisions on behalf of the full Governing Body.

Governors make regular visits to school in order to experience the school day first hand, meet with staff, talk with pupils and monitor progress and performance.

Governors also attend regular training course in order to help them fulfil their roles.

Governor Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the governing body are wide ranging and include: establishing the overall strategic direction of the school ▪ setting the aims, values and ethos ▪ promoting high standards of achievement and ensuring accountability ▪ monitoring and evaluating the school's progress ▪ setting and monitoring the budget to ensure best value for money ▪ appointing staff, including the Headteacher ▪ acting as a 'critical friend' (providing support and challenge) to the Headteacher ▪ adopting and reviewing policies to achieve the school's aims.

In summary, we are responsible for ensuring that the children at Priory attend a successful school that provides them with a good education and supports their well-being.

Contacting Governors

If you wish to contact us please do so via the School Office or by emailing:

governors@priorycademy.org



The School's conversion to academy status with the City Learning Trust (CLT) is now envisaged to take place by 1st June 2018 following lengthy delays by the Department for Education and the Local Authority.

We are, however, already working closely with colleagues at the CLT in sharing ideas, best practice and resources. The Headteachers, Subject Leads and Chairs of Governors across the CLT schools meet regularly.

We will write to confirm as soon as the conversion has been finalised.

What have been some of our successes in 2017?

- Times Tables Rock Stars has proved to be really popular with pupils and has encouraged them to practice with a bit of healthy competition!
- The establishment of the Inclusion Hub, which is effectively supporting pupils across the school led by Mrs Cunliffe.
- An impressive £9,000 was raised from events and activities, including the Summer Fun Day, non-uniform days, a pamper evening and discos.
- Priory is working towards accreditation to be an 'Attachment Aware' school, which means that all staff will be trained to support pupils' emotional needs.
- All pupils took part in Spell-Fest and Maths-Fest, which were whole days focusing on spelling/maths to engage the children in a fun and exciting way.
- We continue to take pride in attendance, which was 97% for the 2016-2017 school year and remained at 97% last term – thank you for your support.

What are we trying to improve?

- An on-going commitment to raising standards across the school.
- A whole-school focus on reading so that all pupils become confident and fluent readers as pupils who can read well are overwhelmingly more likely to succeed at school.
- The health and fitness of pupils, including a wider range of PE activities.
- Car parking – we appreciate how difficult it can be for both drivers and pedestrians so we are working with the local authority who own the land. Please do park considerately of pedestrians to help keep everyone safe.

School links with the community

- Weekly worship with Reverend Shaun and the school's Easter service held at St Matthias' Church was broadcast on BBC Radio Stoke on Easter Sunday.
- Pupils have made several visits to Hanford Court care home.
- Pupils have participated in maths and science activities and the choir have performed at Trentham High.
- The Co-op displayed Easter artwork by key stage 1 and, in conjunction with the police, they have provided school with books on staying safe.

Changes in Teaching Staff

In September we welcomed five new teachers who already feel part of the furniture! Mrs Cunliffe was appointed as Deputy Head and Mrs Wooliscroft as Assistant Head. We also created a Middle Leadership Team (Miss Bache – Foundation Stage, Mrs Bloor – Key Stage 1, Mr Aked – Lower Key Stage 2 and Mrs Davies – Upper Key Stage 2), which is proving to be invaluable for sharing management responsibilities and monitoring teaching and learning.

Governor Vacancies

We currently have 2 vacancies on the governing body – 1 existing vacancy and Rev'd Shaun wishes to step down to focus on his role as school vicar. Both vacancies are for co-opted governors who are members of the community who have the necessary skills/experience. As we already have two parent governors and Rev'd Sarah has a long-standing connection with the school, *ideally* we would like to appoint governors who are independent and do not currently have a link with the school. One of the positions must be filled by someone with a strong financial background. Further information can be found on the Governors section of the website: www.prioryceprimary.org.uk

Priory Church Academy Values

Trust

Optimism

Gratitude

Enthusiasm

Thoughtfulness

Honesty

Enjoyment

Respect