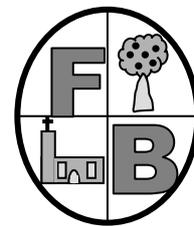


# Flax Bourton Church of England Primary School

Aiming High, Respecting Others, Having Fun



## GOVERNORS ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR 2016/17

### GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Board of Governors is made up as follows:

- 4 Parent Governors
- 2 Staff Governors (one being the Headteacher)
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 2 Co-Opted Governors
- 2 Foundation Governors

During the year, Tracey Knott was elected as Parent Governor replacing Natasha McKenzie who had resigned at the end of the prior Academic Year.

Polly Brown, Associate Governor also resigned during the year. Polly had been appointed to be the link between School and Parish Council.

We also have a Clerk to the Governing Body, who helps us to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year, are covered.

Information and Data are made available to governors for their regular meetings, with verbal and written presentations, followed by question and answer sessions with the Headteacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team. In this way the Governors are able to challenge and support the Headteacher.

Governors are able to benchmark School data against similar schools, the Local Authority and schools nationally, to ensure the Schools standards and expectations are high, plans are in place to continue to develop the pupils and that these plans, are able to be closely monitored.

The Governors' attendance record and areas of focus can be found in the Governors' section of the School website.

The Board of Governors has three Committees:

- *Curriculum, Standards and Organisation:*  
Responsible for reviewing the curriculum related policies of the School, monitoring and reviewing the School performance, reviewing staffing and class structures.
- *Finance and Resources:*  
Responsible for setting and monitoring the budget for the School, overseeing the financial management of the School and ensuring the premises are safe and fit for purpose.
- *Pay and Personnel Committee:*  
Involved in the selection and recruitment of staff, dealing with issues relating to existing staff and conducting the Headteachers Performance Management.

All committees review progress through the relevant parts of the School Improvement Plan. We continue to review our effectiveness against departmental guidance, and discuss the effectiveness of each meeting we hold. Each Committee has its own Terms of Reference to work to.

### What were the key issues and challenges faced by the Governors in 2016/17 and how they were addressed?

- Following extensive research, attendance at various meetings and deliberation to ensure we made a decision to join a MAT that best fits with the Schools ethos

- Expansion managed carefully with build plans being devised with the LA and managing the increase in pupil intake carefully to ensure the schools ethos is not affected
- Time taken to understand the new assessment regime and reporting using Raise Online
- We have considered ways to support pupils that are impacted by the changes to the national curriculum
- New staffing structure after departure of Co-Head and support given to leadership team to manage transition
- Balancing the books in uncertain times, money saved where appropriate and not detrimental to educational outcomes
- LA has withdrawn from traded services and this has been managed carefully to minimise the impact on the school
- Worked hard to encourage and preserve motivation to maintain 'Outstanding' status

### **What was the impact of Governors' Actions, decisions and interventions in 2016/17?**

- Made a decision regarding joining the MAT to ensure the school is sustainable in the village setting
- We have moved forward with the build plans, consultations undertaken , planning approved, ensuring enough places for those that want them
- Decision taken to increase to a PAN of 30 to further maintain the sustainability of the school
- Met the financial challenges ensuring that the budget has been managed effectively
- We have supported the head through the changes in the leadership ensuring that strong leadership is maintained
- We have managed the new jigsaw funding appropriately for PSHE
- Supported and challenged the senior leadership team to consider how the impact of the school on local highways can be minimised

### **Governors' Priorities 2017/18**

- Deliver new build/expansion to preserve school sustainability
- Ensure standards are maintained and raised where necessary as identified in the School Improvement Plan
- Balance the books in light of the funding challenges and a lower than expected 2017 intake into reception
- Ratify the decision to join a MAT
- Manage risk to keep pupils safe
- Ensure outstanding education remains accessible for all
- Continue to embed and further a culture of 'learning without limits'
- Support the staff and preserve their well-being (especially the Head and office staff)
- Ensure continuance of the Christian Ethos
- Continue holding the School and its Leadership team to account (whilst supporting them as required)
- Preserve the quality of education as the School expands and pupil numbers increase

We are delighted that in our last two formal inspections, Ofsted in March 2015 and SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) in July 2015, both rated the School as Outstanding in all categories.

The Board of Governors, Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team and indeed all members of staff and valued volunteers, are constantly striving to improve and develop the School, for the benefits of the pupils and the whole School community.