



Bolney CE Primary School

Governor Impact Statement: 2023/24

Be the best you can,
guided by God

What is the role of Bolney School Governors?

The Governing Body is a group of dedicated volunteers, including parents, staff and members of our wider community in Bolney, who invest a huge amount of good will, hard work and time for the sole purpose of improving the education of every child in our school.

As Governors, we are accountable for the performance of our school and as a body we have three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure the money is spent well

This impact statement gives some further information about our role in school leadership and the impact we have had on school improvement.

Clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

- Our Spirituality Committee works actively to develop our children's understanding of Christianity and the school's Christian ethos, which we see as being crucial to children's development.
- A recent report from the Diocese of Chichester praised the "strong and effective" leadership and "valuable contribution" made by our co-Chair of Governors, Mrs Glew, in promoting spirituality.
- Our Governors have visited the school for a learning walk and for staff meetings. We have spoken to children about the school values, and have attended Worship. This means we understand our school well.
- We review staff, pupil and parent surveys and agree next steps with school leadership.
- Our co-Chairs of Governors meet frequently with our Head Teacher to discuss priorities at the school.
- Safeguarding and Health & Safety are at the heart of our ethos. We carry out reviews of the school grounds throughout the year.

Educational Performance

- Our Curriculum Committee meets termly to review progress of the school's development plan and to discuss work the school is doing to make the curriculum challenging, engaging and coherent. In 2023/4 we especially focused on the impact of the "Interplaylands" initiative and work to develop children's writing.
- We are in close contact with the SENDCo and have a designated SEND and vulnerable children Governor. We frequently discuss how all children are being supported at Curriculum Committee meetings.
- The school designates a teacher to be "subject lead" for each subject taught at school, and our governors work with them to review their action plans and the impact of these
- Our Data Working Party scrutinises anonymised attainment data and discusses the ways in which children are supported to achieve their full potential.

We visit the school to speak to children about their learning and school life, and celebrate work they are proud of.

Financial Performance

- Our Resources Committee meets termly to scrutinise budgets and staffing. We also meet on an ad hoc basis with our Business Manager. Our committee reviews the ways in which the school obtains best value for money.
- We discuss the impact of funding for specific purposes, for example pupil premium, children looked after and PE & Sports premium.

Other

- Our governor action plan and timetable keeps us focused on key development priorities. We have specific formats for our visit reports and share information at our meetings.
- We have been active in recruiting new governors to the governing body.
- Our governors undertake training, including safeguarding training, and we share best practice at our meetings.
- Members of the governing body have undertaken “safer recruitment” training.
- Our governors attend update calls with West Sussex County Council and the Diocese of Chichester and share key messages.
- We issued a newsletter to parents to make them aware of our work and how to contact us, and we plan to issue them regularly.
- We met with pupil governors and plan to develop their role in the coming year.
- We review school policies on a rolling basis to ensure these are up-to-date and in line with County Council recommendations.
- We carry out Head Teacher Performance Management each year to ensure that objectives are in line with the school’s development priorities.

A 2023 report from West Sussex County Council commented that the Bolney governors have “strong involvement” in the school and are working “very effectively”.