

Bloxham CE Primary School



Be . Build . Become

31st January 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Volunteers,

The Full Governing Board met on 28th January 2025 at the meeting, the minutes of our meeting on 21st November 2024 were approved and are now available on the [Governors' page of the school website](#) along with useful information about governance at your school.

Introducing Hannah Duckett



We are delighted to welcome Hannah Duckett as our newly appointed Co-Opted Governor. Hannah's appointment follows a thorough skills audit conducted by the Governing Board, where her expertise and experience were identified as being of great value to our team. Hannah is a proud alumna of Bloxham C.E. Primary School, having left in Year 6 in 2014. In her application, she shared her deep passion for supporting young people and her desire to give back to the community that was such an important part of her own early development. Currently, Hannah serves as Deputy Housemistress at Tudor Hall School, where she provides pastoral care and support to 51 students aged 16-17. In addition, she is on track to graduate and qualify as a Social Worker later this year, showcasing her unwavering commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We are confident that Hannah's unique skills and dedication will be a tremendous asset to our Governing Board as we continue to strive for excellence in all that we do.

Presentation From Art Lead

- Our meeting began with an insightful presentation from Mrs. Kidman on her leadership Art in school. Governors were pleased to hear about the exciting art initiatives taking place in the school, including the highly successful calendar created by our pupils last year, which was sold to parents and staff.
- As part of their role in both supporting and challenging school leadership, governors asked Mrs. Kidman a range of thoughtful and detailed questions. One suggestion was to explore the possibility of hosting an exhibition of the students' work for the wider community, demonstrating the board's commitment to continuously improving the school's offerings.
- Governors were reassured that art continues to play a significant role in the school curriculum, and they were encouraged by the progress made in this area. They expressed confidence that the planned next steps will have a positive and lasting impact on our pupils' development.

Progress Review Against School Development Plan (Annual Objectives for School Leaders)

- Governors reviewed the latest external reports from our Local Authority School Improvement Officer, which were very positive. The reports highlighted the excellent pupil behaviour and the strong attitudes to learning across the school.
- They also recognised the significant progress made since our last OFSTED inspection, noting the tangible impact these improvements have had on our pupils' development.
- The LA School Improvement Lead provided valuable suggestions for further refinement and embedding of our work, all of which have been adopted. These suggestions are aligned with our School Development Plan and focus on key areas for continued growth:
 - Development and embedding of the new curriculum
 - Increasing pupils' understanding of British Values and their personal relevance
 - Strengthening leadership and management, including building stronger connections with the wider community
- Governors were assured that the school is on track to meet its objectives and school leaders, and the Governing Board will continue to make strategic, evidence-based decisions to ensure ongoing success.

Governing Monitoring

- Lead governors shared updates from their recent monitoring visits, which included areas such as safeguarding, the Open the Book assembly, anti-bullying discussions with pupils, data monitoring, and classroom learning walks.
- During these visits, it was clear that the Bloxham Basics, which define the standards for every class and lesson, are firmly embedded across the school. Governors were pleased to report that all pupils they spoke with confirmed they were happy at school, had friends, and could clearly articulate what they were learning.
- Additionally, all staff members were confident in how to report safeguarding concerns. These visits provided strong evidence of the school's progress, as well as the openness, team spirit, and positive culture that exist within the school community.

Staffing Challenges

- Governors discussed the ongoing challenges related to staff absence within the school. They fully understand that this situation may be causing concern for some parents and carers, and they recognise that it has been further complicated by factors beyond the school's control, such as national budget issues and difficulties in securing high-quality supply teachers.
- Governors also acknowledge that due to the sensitive nature of some aspects, school leaders can only share limited information with the community at this time.
- Governors were assured that the school leadership team has taken every possible step to minimise the impact on pupils, including providing additional support through the nurture team.
- Governors continue to support and monitor the leadership's proactive approach to managing these challenges, ensuring the well-being and education of all pupils remains a priority.
- The positive culture and team spirit within the school are a testament to the resilience and dedication of everyone involved. Governors also recognised the significant effort made by staff and volunteers, acknowledging the challenges they've faced and thanking them for their hard work, commitment, and teamwork.

Safeguarding

- Governors also reviewed the Safeguarding action plan following the submission of our annual S175 Safeguarding Audit and the Local Authority Safeguarding review. They were pleased to see that the minor actions identified had already been implemented, reinforcing the strong safeguarding culture in place, supported by robust systems, policies, and procedures.

Community Engagement

- Furthermore, governors were encouraged to hear about the school's growing connections with the wider community, including a collaborative project with Bloxham Grove Academy for Year 2 pupils and work experience placements with Banbury and Bicester College.
- Governors recognised the importance of a collective effort in supporting the children's development. With your continued support and engagement, we can ensure the success of every child in our care. Together, we are working toward a shared goal: to make our school the best it can be, where our children are happy, thriving, and prepared for the future. As a school community, we all play a role in upholding our [Christian values](#) that guide us, setting a positive example for our students each day through our actions and behaviors.

If you would like to know more about governance at your school or would like to contact me, please email me on: chair@bloxham-pri.oxon.sch.uk

Best wishes,



Kevin Moyes
Chair of Governors