

ARBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022-23

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at Arbury Primary School throughout the course of the 2022-23 academic year.

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government for Arbury Primary School allows for 18 governors across different categories. The governing body consists of 4 elected parent/carer governors, 1 LA governor, 1 headteacher, 1 elected staff governor and 11 co-opted governors (4 of which can be members of staff).

At the last meeting of the year, the Governing Body agreed to fill the vacancies and expect to have filled all the positions ready for the first full governing body meeting in Autumn 2023.

Through the course of the 2022-23 Academic Year, the Governing Body has lost 2 governors and are in the process of completing the checks needed to recruit 4 more in order to increase the overall capacity and membership of our board.

Over the course of the 2022-23 Academic Year, the Governing Body has been chaired by David Maher. During the summer term, the Vice Chair, Rebecca Brownlie, stepped up whilst David Maher was on sabbatical.

The work of the Governing Body has been supported by Laura Oxley, as Clerk to Governors.

Over the course of the year, Governors at Arbury Primary School demonstrate an overall positive attendance and engagement with their work. Further information about governor attendance can be found on the school website.

The Structure of Governance

As well as meeting as a Full Governing Body, Arbury Primary School also has four committees, in order to ensure sufficient oversight, support and accountability towards areas of identified priority and statutory coverage.

The school names these committees as:

- **Curriculum** – Curriculum / Teaching and Learning / Assessment
- **Finance** – Budget setting/monitoring
- **Personnel** – HR / recruitment / pay committee / HT performance management
- **Premises** – Maintenance / security / H&S checks

These committees and the Governing Body overall have a continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and manage the updates of school policies aligned to the particular areas of responsibility.

Committees related to particular purposes such as dealing with complaints or exclusions are constituted as they are required, in line with the determining policy guidance.

Impact of the work of the Full Governing Body

Over the course of the last academic year, the Governing Body has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Continuing to support children overcome the effects of disruption due to Covid.
- Receiving regular updates from the Headteacher in order to ensure continued quality education and safety of all children.
- Overseeing the progress made against the Raising Attainment Plan.
- Ensuring that the school responds positively and strategically to challenges in funding.

Impact of the work of the Curriculum Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Curriculum Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Ensuring that the quality of the Reading, Writing and Maths curriculum continues support closing the attainment gap, widened during Covid disruption
- Ensuring that we continue to keep our whole curriculum under review, adjusting the planning and sequencing of some identified curriculum areas and introducing knowledge organisers to clarify key knowledge
- Continuing to keep the school website under review, ensuring key information is published
- Reviewing policies for curriculum subjects and teaching and learning

Impact of the work of the Finance Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Finance Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Responding to changes in SFVS and ensuring that the standard has been met for 2022/23
- Adjusting budgets and spending to offset the unexpected increase in staffing costs.
- Planning strategically to use the school's carry forward to offset a shortfall in school funding and reduced numbers on roll
- Setting a budget designed to balance at the end of three years

Impact of the work of the Personnel Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Personnel Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Ensuring that the school is fully staffed with teachers recruited for September at an early stage to ensure the best opportunity to make quality appointments
- Planning strategically for the movement of key staff within leadership roles
- Ensuring the welfare of staff as we return to a new normal after a significant period of disruption
- Ensuring an effective strategy for good communication between the increased team of DSL/DDSLs

Impact of the work of the Premises Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Premises Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Ensuring that regular inspections and site walks ensure that the school remains safe
- Making improvements to the EYFS outdoor area to allow for all-year access to outdoor space and resources.
- Facilitating the safe and timely completion of phase one and two of the project to replace the school roof.

Governor Training

Governors' work is collective, so we are always able to benefit from our different points of view and considerations within meetings. However, the Governing Body has also benefitted from training courses on the following topics throughout the course of the year;

- Safeguarding – in order to effectively fulfil our duties in quality assuring the safeguarding arrangements for all children at Arbury Primary School.
- Prevent Training – in order to effectively fulfil our duties in respect to prevent.
- LA Briefings – in order to remain up to date with latest Local Authority information regarding the approaches towards safe school reopening

Governor Monitoring

As well as attending meetings, governors are also expected to visit school to understand more about school life and particular areas of priority (typically linked with different areas of the curriculum).

Throughout the course of this year, Governors have undertaken particular monitoring in relation to;

- Safeguarding
- The Curriculum
- Premises, Health and Safety
- The work of subject leaders

Forward Planning

Following the above impact of 2022-2023, the Governing Body looks forward to continuing to strive for the highest standards in our school. This will include;

- Ensuring that the school responds positively to the OFSTED inspection anticipated in Summer or Autumn 2023
- Supporting the school to continue to review and improve the whole curriculum
- Continue to narrow the gaps in attainment caused by disruption to learning during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly for those children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding

Other information and contact

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at: <https://arbury.eschools.co.uk/website/governors/10608>. This includes information regarding attendance of governors and their Declarations of Interest.

Alternately, stakeholders are always welcome to engage with the work of the Governing Body by contacting the Chair of Governors via email to office@arbury.cambs.sch.uk regarding the work of the Governing Body.