



The school governing body is composed of a group of volunteers, parents and staff. It is an independent body that offers support and guidance to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). We provide a strategic view of the school. We hold the SLT to account by monitoring and evaluating the work of the school to raise standards and keep our children safe.

The responsibility of the management of staff and the school is that of the SLT. The governors meet twice a term as a full body as well as having a sub-committee for Foundation which meets half termly. Additional meetings for resources and performance and standards take place on an as required basis.

Governors also attend school assemblies, events and open days. They visit the school on a regular basis to experience the day-to-day life of the school, the teachers and children.

During the lockdown, governors continued to meet via MS Teams to discuss the various plans put into place to continue the education of our children at home and for the children of keyworkers on site. Safety and wellbeing of our whole school community have been and will continue to be our main concern for the return to school in September.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Cast your minds back to September 2019, when the new school year started with promise, and when words such as 'Covid', 'bubbles' and 'key worker' were yet to form part of our everyday language. Who would have imagined that the school year would end in March, when most of our children waved their teachers goodbye for the last time this year? The word 'unprecedented' has been bandied about over the past few months, but I cannot think of a more apt term to describe the 2019/2020 academic year.

The coronavirus pandemic has represented an enormous challenge to everyone across our school community, and I am amazed by the way in which everyone has risen to that challenge. Our school leaders put together a 'remote school' and then took every step they could to make the school as safe as possible when it came to partially re-open. The teaching staff made home learning packs for our children whilst continuing to offer onsite education for the children of our key workers. The support staff enabled the school to remain open for those who need it by putting new procedures into place and by keeping it clean and tidy. Our parents demonstrated incredible support to the school and their families and most importantly, our children have shown courage, resilience and resourcefulness in the manner in which they have tackled 'the new normal.'

Thank you to the entire school community for the hard work and spirit that they have shown in making the most testing of times as positive for our children as possible. We recognise that every family's circumstances are different, and that home-schooling has put additional pressure on parents and carers already juggling competing demands. We take our hats off to you for rising to the challenge and hope that you take pride in yourselves for doing your best in difficult circumstances.

As governors, we continue to work together closely with our school leaders to ensure that all decisions taken are in the best interest of staff and pupils. Working with our colleagues across the MAT has been an invaluable source of support, ideas and guidance for the school's leadership team in tackling the challenges we have faced this year.

We now look forward to September when the school can reopen its gates and our children can reconnect and continue their first rate education. We wish all those year 6 children moving on to new settings the very best of luck and look forward to seeing the rest in September. We hope you all enjoy a happy, healthy, and sunny summer ... **"be our best selves" – always.**

Nick Moon
Chair of Governors

GOVERNORS 2019/20

Nick Moon - Parent Governor & Chair
Helen Reading - Foundation and SEND
Governor & Vice-Chair
Adam Walsh, Executive Head Teacher
Pat Newbold - Foundation Governor

Stuart Tilsley - Foundation Governor
Wayne Bates - Parent Governor
Peter Taaffe - Co-Opted Governor
Tom O'Hanlon - Parent Governor
Diane Steed Co - Opted Governor

Emma Acors - Co-Opted Governor
Alison Wheway - Staff Governor
Alex Kolb - Head of School
Caroline Gorner Clerk to Governors

PERFORMANCE AND STANDARDS

With the cancellation of all standardised testing and the move to home-schooling during lockdown Performance and Standards has a vastly different look to it this year. This because of the lack of data we have been able to collect for each child.

The challenges posed by the provision of a virtual curriculum and the engagement of children in learning from home has been a challenge for teachers, parents, carers and children alike. We would like to reassure parents that plans are already in place for a curriculum that will support the children in reconnecting with staff and their friends and will enable them to continue their learning journey as expected.

The Governors would like to thank the following people who have helped us and are leaving this year

Mr Boothroyd has been part of the team since February half term and quickly established strong relationships with children and the wider school community. During lockdown he has done much to support the children in Ash and has produced some fantastic support videos. We wish him every success in his new role at Temple Grafton CE Primary School.

Adrian Guthrie has been the Rector of St Nicholas Alcester and the Alcester Minster group of churches for over 7 years. As a former teacher, he has always taken a keen interest in the schools in his parishes and has been a regular visitor to our school as well as attending our school services at St Peters Church Coughton. We wish him well in his new Parish.

RESOURCES

Our main focus has been to set a balanced budget for the school year ensuring that, wherever possible, we have a 3-year view of funds and that we maintain a positive financial balance over the 3 years, while at the same time ensuring that the current cohort of pupils receive the necessary funding, resources and support to enhance their learning experience. Each year this is getting harder and harder to do, as costs rise and funding is reduced. For this financial year expenditure is predicted to be slightly higher than income by around £10,470 and we have been able to set a balanced budget for 2020/21.

As part of the Multi Academy Trust, our accounts are externally audited annually and again there were no significant issues found. In terms of Staffing, we have supported the Senior Leadership Team in recruitment to try and ensure we have the optimum staffing configuration that the school needs within its budgeted allocation.

From a health and safety perspective, our biggest challenge has been to support the head and the staff in ensuring that we create a safe and caring environment for all staff and pupils, initially during lockdown and the phased return for Reception and Year 1 pupils and now looking forward to September when all children are due to return.

FOUNDATION

Our foundation governors are appointed by Coventry Church of England Diocese. They meet regularly with the Rector of Alcester, the RE lead and the Head of School to discuss matters such as the RE curriculum, the school ethos, health and wellbeing, relationship and sex education, school church assemblies and services.

In the summer term, we participated in a review of the school's vision and values, led by MAT Director Nick Moon. After a consultation process that included pupils, parents, staff and governors, we agreed on a vision of 'be our best selves' linked to the Bible verse "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philipians 4:13

Our brand-new school logo now includes this Vision Statement.

