

# **Governor Report to Parents September 2020 to August 2021**

## **List of Priory School Governors**

Hannah Foster- *Head Teacher*

Roy Barrett – *Chair of Governors*

Ruth Talbot- *Vice Chair of Governors*

Linda Burniki

Matthew Ward

Zieshan Afzal

Bharathi Sudanaguta

Gillian Duncan

Libby Lewis *Staff Governor*

## **The Covid 19 Challenge**

The Covid 19 pandemic has made this year another challenging one, however, the governors and staff have worked hard to ensure the health, safety and well-being of children continues to be at the forefront of everything we do.

The school has followed all government guidance diligently and have worked tirelessly to ensure that disruptions have been kept to a minimum.

The school successfully implemented a remote learning which could not have been achieved without the commitment of our dedicated staff and the support from parents and carers

Covid 19 precautions meant that governors were again unable to much spend time in school but we are able to report that school staff again did a great job sorting things out on their own initiative with hard work and dedication. We were kept informed at every stage and could see that teachers stayed in touch with the children online throughout the lock-down periods. The social distancing reorganisation ready to receive children back in the classroom was superbly handled

## **Governing Body Changes**

At the end of this school year we said goodbye to Jo Thethi who resigned as a governor. We thanked her for the tremendous contribution she has made particularly as a leader of the Finance & Personnel committee. Nikki Papalli also stood down as a governor mid-year but we were very fortunate with governor recruitment when Ruth Talbot and Gillian Duncan joined us. Gillian was herself a head teacher until her recent retirement.

Libby Lewis (our fantastic head of catering) took over from Andy Watson as staff governor and we will be recruiting a new parent governor at the start of the new school year.

## **REPORT HEADLINES**

**Another challenging year due to Covid 19**

**Our new Senior Leadership Team now well established and highly effective**

**Approved a new school Vision / Mission**

**2 new governors appointed**

**Approved £182,000 spending on school infrastructure / facilities**

**Good school / parent relations**

**School continues to be financially strong and expenditure was in line with the budget**

**Over 150 hours volunteered by governors**

## Priory School Board of Governors

2 parent governors  
1 local authority governor  
1 staff governor  
2 partnership governors  
5 co-opted governors  
1 head teacher  
Total 12.

We will be recruiting at the start of the new school year - 2021/22.  
See the school website for more information about the Governors.

## The work of the Governors – 150+ hours of voluntary service

The role of the governing body is absolutely key to the effectiveness of a school. Each individual governor is a member of the governing body. The role of the governing body is a strategic one; its key functions are to:

- Set the aims and objectives for the school
- Set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- Set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- Monitor the progress the school is making towards achievement of its objectives
- Be a source of challenge and support to the Headteacher

This table shows the types of meetings attended by the governors during the school year and the number of hours spent - over 150 in total.

| Hours / Month         | 2020 |     |     |     | 2021 |     |      |     |     |      |       |     |
|-----------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-------|-----|
| Activities            | Sep  | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan  | Feb | Mar  | Apr | May | June | July  | Aug |
| Full Governing Body   |      |     | 14  |     |      | 3.5 | 12   |     | 18  |      | 12.25 |     |
| Governor Focus Events |      | 24  |     |     |      | 13  |      |     |     |      |       |     |
| Finance & Personnel   |      | 4   |     |     | 8    |     |      |     |     |      | 4.5   |     |
| Other Activities      | 2    | 7   |     | 2   | 10   | 1.5 | 9.5  | 2   | 3   | 2    |       |     |
| Total Hours Spent     | 2    | 35  | 14  | 2   | 18   | 18  | 21.5 | 2   | 21  | 2    | 16.75 | 0   |

“Social distancing” requirements meant that this year we continued with online meetings using the Microsoft Teams application. So successful is this format that we will continue to meet this way in 2021/22. However the GFE Events will revert to actual school visits which is bar far the best way to keep in touch with what’s actually happening in-school.

## Governing body actions & input in the year

The Published Admissions Number (PAN)

The PAN will be 90 for the school year 2021/22. Conversely the Resource Centre roll has increased slightly.

### *Resource Centre and SEND Pupils*

Governors supported the significant changes to the provision and organisation of facilities for pupils with special educational needs. Two classrooms in the main school were set up as a resource unit for SEND pupils. These pupils are able to access lessons and activities alongside other pupils in the main school. This resource section of the main school is known as the Orchard.

The remaining provision of classrooms for SEND pupils is now called the Woodland.

**Budget / Investment** - *Monitored to ensure financial strength and stability*

The school's financial position is strong and in line with agreed budgets. We agreed school investments of over £182k in the school infrastructure/improving facilities:

- Upgrading fire doors £ 7,260
- Updating nursery outside play area £98,000
- KS2 playground resurfacing £35,400
- refurbishment of the Y6 & Y4 toilets\* £27,255
- Replacement classroom flooring £11,645
- New safety fencing £ 3,000

\* includes a new accessible toilet of first floor.

**School Policies** – *We reviewed and updated policies*

- All school policies are compliant

**Health & Safety** - *Monitored Covid 19 health and safety compliance*

- School walks by governors to check first-hand compliance with social distancing organisation throughout the school



**Safeguarding** – *Discussed and reviewed at every Governing Body meeting*

- Checked that vulnerable children in lockdown and on home schooling were being closely monitored by the school's Inclusion Team

**New Vision & Mission for the school**

We consulted on the development of the school's new Vision and Mission statements. We believe the new statements illustrate very clearly the ambitions of the school to offer children the best start in their education:

*New mission statement*

We foster a culture of courageous teaching and learning inspiring curiosity where learning is fun, and purposeful without a moment of boredom; delivered by highly qualified and motivated teachers.

Together we celebrate diversity and community inspiring hope, creating opportunity, and through trust develop positive relationships. Our children leave our school ready for life's challenges and prepared to make an impact.

*New Vision/Ethos -*

**Growing determined, courageous, kind individuals proud to be Priory children.**

*We live our vision through our core values:*

Curiosity – harnessing children's natural inquisitiveness and love for exploration through an immersive curriculum will create active learners who never stop wanting to learn more.

Hope-Building positive mental health, resilience and setting aspirational goals to make a positive impact on the world they live.

Opportunity – Creating experiences and wonderful memories developing confident people who bravely seek out their own opportunities to forge their future.

Trust – Investing in positive relationships to become respectful, compassionate people ready and prepared to live and make a difference to our world.

Producing young people with our core qualities

## **Communications**

### New Logo

We also consulted on the design of the school's new logo. Now looking fresh and modern in keeping with the school's positive and ambitious goals.

### Web site development

Governors supported the allocation of a budget to improve the school's web site – again a more modern look but also more informative and easier to navigate. Work began in 2021 and the target is to get the job done by the year end.

## **School Sports –**



Governors were very supportive of the school's programme to keep pupils healthy mentally and physically throughout the year. Through sport the department helps pupils develop their personal health and fitness and cognitive, creative, physical and social skills.

The school's sports and PE team did a really great job.

Some highlights from the year:

- *New outdoor adventures activities*, such as nerf fun shooting, and archery.
- *Virtual School Game Completion success*
  - Priory entered over 3,500 entries; Level 2 - won 8 golds 10 silvers & 2 bronze medals
  - Level 3 - won 6 golds, 2 silvers & 1 bronze
  - SEND pupils took part in Pentathlon challenges all securing fantastic medals and certificates
- *Inter house competitions.*
  - Over 12 different after school house competitions attended by over 350 students across KS2 in sports such as, Netball (girls), Football, (boys and girls) hockey, Gymrun & Basketball
- *Home activities*
  - **D**uring lockdown periods, we had over 380 school game scores sent in. Over 4000 YouTube views of online PE lessons (some lessons being copied by other schools)
  - 170 families signed in to take part from home in live lessons. Yoga was a big love by the majority of the students, and we have introduced that to the curriculum in 2021/22
- *After School Clubs*
  - The clubs resumed in April - over 280 students taking part weekly
- *Priory School's festival of sport 28<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July*
  - Every day for a week, each child took part in various sporting activities. Over 700 children were active every single day

- Sports day was very successful with competitive race and on the final day, the whole school came outside and took part in a variety of challenges

**Parent relations –Priory School has good parent relations**

- Governors had several special meetings with parents to deal with special concerns
- An online survey was done at the end of the school year offering a clear picture of the school’s strengths and challenges as seen by parents. Effective actions taken on all points as required
- Relationships with parents are warm and supportive throughout the school

**Governor training – including Governor Clerk**

Governors carried out a self-assessment skills audit. The feedback will inform our personal development and training priorities and help to identify what to look for when filling future governor vacancies. Courses attended:

| <b>Governor Name</b> | <b>Course Name</b>   | <b>Course Date</b> |
|----------------------|--|--------------------|
| Harpeet Kahler       | Clerks’ briefing   | 09/09/20           |
| Zieshan Afzal        | School Finance   | 11/11/20           |
| Harpeet Kahler       | Clerks’ Briefing - Zoom  | 13/01/21           |
| Harpeet Kahler       | Exclusions   | 05/05/21           |
| Libby Lewis          | New Governor Induction Part One<br>Strategic Vs Operational - Zoom       | 12/05/21           |
| Libby Lewis          | New Governors’ Induction Part Two<br>The Challenge & Support Role - Zoom | 19/05/21           |
| Ruth Talbot          | Headteachers’ Appraisal – Virtually via Zoom                             | 23/06/21           |

**2021 / 2022 Governor Priorities**

1. Ensure the continued focus on health and fitness during the Covid crisis
2. See the successful implementation of the post lockdown recovery plan
3. Ensure the school is addressing any residual mental health issues among staff and children
4. Monitor the effective implementation of the School Development Plan to ensure that pupil progress and attainment is in line with the agreed targets. We will support the school Senior Leadership Team in re-focusing on a broad curriculum with good educational outcomes for every child
5. Governors will ensure that the school continues to be financially strong and fully resourced according to its needs