



INTRODUCING THE GOVERNING BOARD OF BANKS ROAD

Banks Road Infant & Nursery School has a Board of 14 volunteer Governors who play a vital role in shaping the strategic direction of the school. Governors work closely with the headteacher to raise standards and improve outcomes for all pupils.

Our Governors act with integrity, objectivity, and honesty, always in the best interests of the school, to achieve three core functions:

BOARD MEETINGS

There are nine key meetings each year – each of the three distinct committees meet every term.

The Full Governing Board (FGB) meetings focus on the principal issues linked to strategic direction and key policies such as safeguarding.

The Curriculum Committee (CC) focuses on learning and teaching and monitoring the implementation of policies and initiatives.

The Finance and Operational Management (FOM) committee has responsibility for ensuring that the budget setting and control is rigorous and best use is made of school resources.



ENSURING CLARITY OF VISION, ETHOS & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

This involves setting the strategic framework, including the vision & strategic priorities, and being responsible for setting & modelling the culture, values & ethos.



HOLDING EXECUTIVE LEADERS TO ACCOUNT

We hold the head teacher to account for: the educational performance of the school & its pupils; the effective & efficient performance management of staff; and the implementation of the board's strategy for school.



OVERSEEING FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

We make sure that public money is well spent. We provide financial oversight, hold leaders to account, make sure that money is spent correctly, & make sure that spending is in line with our school's priorities.

GOVERNOR ACTIVITIES THIS TERM

ESTABLISH THE VISION

We had a session focusing on what is at the heart of Banks Road and identifying the vision we have for the next few years. The school staff will also complete a similar session before the vision can be established and shared more widely.

This will guide the work of the school and help everyone follow the ethos and direction.

HOLDING LEADERS TO ACCOUNT

Mrs Taylor provided a head teacher report before each meeting, with key information that updated the board on what is happening in school, key decisions, and data on attendance and performance. This allowed us to ask questions and challenge the information so that we fully understood and could support the actions taken. School leaders produced a School Improvement Plan (SIP) which detailed the key areas for development with timeframes and expected outcomes. The board had oversight of this to ensure that progress was evident. Written questions were posed on curriculum issues.

The school has sixty policies that required approval. These policies were circulated prior to meetings so that they could be approved. This year we allocated these policies to specific members to ensure that are thoroughly scrutinised.

OVERSEEING FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Governor responsible for Finance has visited the school regularly to review the budget and ensure spending is on track and to ensure that specific funding streams are being spent appropriately.

CURRICULUM DAYS

We attended three curriculum days in school and met with children and staff. Organised by Mrs Taylor and timetabled to ensure we saw a wide range of activities in all classes, we noted how the policies were implemented and could see improvements in targeted areas over the course of the year. We were able to monitor things such as behaviour, inclusion and pupil well-being. We can only fulfil our role by seeing first-hand what it looks like to be a pupil at Banks Road. The reports produced after these days have been overwhelmingly positive. The staff work incredibly hard to give the children the best possible experience and the children respond by showing excellent manners, attention and engagement. On these days we also had governor development sessions which allowed us time to develop our own skills and understanding linked to the role. Governors have link roles which enable a more in-depth look at key areas and met with teachers who lead subjects.