

Annual Statement of Governors of Bournville Village Primary School 2024-2025

Our role, effectiveness and impact

This annual governance statement provides details of the BVPS Governing Board and its activities during the 2024-25 academic year and highlights some key areas of focus for 2025-26. It also includes links to our members' details, register of interests and attendance records and an assessment of our effectiveness and impact.

Governors' Whole School Aim

Our mission is to provide an education of the highest quality, based on our school values, that is forward thinking and recognises the uniqueness of each individual. Our six school values are **Respect, Responsibility, Challenge, Integrity, Compassion** and **Collaboration** and they underpin everything we do.

The Governing Board

The BVPS Governing Board is a group of committed volunteers, who work hard to improve the education and experience of every child in our school. We currently comprise:

- 7 Foundation Governors approved by Bournville Village Trust on the Governing Board's recommendation;
- 1 Local Authority Governor appointed by Birmingham City Council;
- 2 Parent Governors elected by parents;
- 1 Staff Governor elected by staff; and
- 1 Headteacher.

Our Chair of Governors is Anne Cull. Details of all [BVPS Governing Board members](#) are available on our website together with our [register of interests](#).

Governors' Role

Governors are an important part of the BVPS leadership and have three strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is spent well.

We work with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (**SLT**) in monitoring the School Development Plan (**SDP**) – which is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and by Ofsted. The SDP sets out clear aims, the key tasks that

will be completed to achieve these aims and success criteria to measure outcomes. It is a 'living document' which is reviewed at Full Governing Board (**FGB**) meetings, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to Governors as part of the termly Headteacher Report.

Training

All members of the BVPS Governing Board undertake training to keep up to date with developments including the latest requirements and expectations. Recent whole Governing Board training has included the Prevent duty and cyber security. Annual safeguarding and Trauma and Mental Health Informed School training is planned for September, with Governors able to join staff for these sessions. In addition, Governors attend individual courses and training (including induction training for new joiners and training in specific areas such as greener governance).

FGB Meetings

Governors attend up to nine FGB meetings each academic year. Our [attendance records](#) are published on our website.

During 2024-25, we have moved to a 'circle of governance' style meeting system with more regular FGB meetings and no standing sub-committees. We have found this to be effective, making us feel more connected as a Board and deepening our collective understanding of the school and its strengths and areas for development. We intend to retain this new system going forward, with the ability to form smaller, focused sub-committees as and when required.

In addition to FGB meetings, some governors meet as Pay Committee and to form Complaints Panels. Governors also make visits and attend meetings with the Headteacher, SLT, staff, pupils and external advisers to monitor progress against SDP objectives – with individual 'lead' governors taking responsibility in specific areas, including safeguarding, SEND, specific curriculum subjects, finance and mental health and wellbeing. Governor visit reports are shared with the FGB and have a positive impact on our ability to support and provide effective challenge to senior leaders.

Finance

Governors scrutinise and review the school budget in detail. We have members with strong finance skills who work closely with the Strategic Operations Manager and Headteacher to ensure effective multi-year budgeting and 'best value' when purchasing significant items or services.

This careful budget monitoring and planning has had a positive impact in terms of the school's ability to put in place a strong and effective staffing structure and drive school improvements for the benefit of all pupils. For example, this year we have been able to introduce a SENDCo Assistant, increase our Pastoral Team and resources and introduce our own Forest School provision and new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

Pupil Premium (PP) Funding

Governors approve the planned spend of PP funding each year and challenge the Headteacher and senior leaders on its impact. Details of the impact of our [PP spending](#) is published on our website.

PE and Sports Premium Funding

We also monitor how the school spends PE and Sports Premium funding, which aims to achieve improvement in all areas of PE, from the standard of physical education to introducing health-focused physical activities and after school sports. Details of the impact of our [PE and Sports Premium spending](#) is published on our website.

Site and buildings

We are proud of our historic site and buildings and support and provide effective challenge to the Strategic Operations Manager and Site Manager as they work to maintain and adapt our facilities to provide an up-to-date and flexible learning environment for the children. We hope that a Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bid for upgrading our fire alarm system will soon be approved and work can get underway.

Safeguarding

The monitoring of safeguarding practices is a key priority for Governors and ongoing throughout the year. Along with the Headteacher, we conduct an annual safeguarding audit and monitor the actions identified. Safeguarding reports presented at FGB meetings provide an opportunity to challenge the safeguarding culture of the school and ensure robust procedures and practices are in place.

Recruitment

Members of the Governing Board have completed 'safer recruitment' training and contributed to the successful recruitment of a strong senior leadership team, focused on continuing to raise standards and outcomes for all pupils. During 2024-25, this has included the recruitment of our new Deputy Headteacher, Mr King, and our new Assistant Headteacher, Mr Hall.

SEND

There has been a clear focus on improving our teaching provision for children with SEND during 2024-25, with significant improvements made. We will also continue to monitor the impact of nurture groups and other targeted offers and interventions to ensure that all our pupils are supported.

Progress and Attainment

Governors scrutinise progress and attainment data. We challenge the Headteacher and SLT on that data, holding them to account as a 'critical friend', especially for pupils or groups of learners who may have lower attainment. Close scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of PP Funding (see above).

School Policies

Governors review and approve policies in line with requirements. This takes place throughout the year and policies are then updated on the school website. Key policies during 2024-25 have included embedding the [Behaviour, Values and Relationships](#) policy and the [Anti-Bullying](#) policy (which will continue to be a focal point in 2025-26). These policies are important in helping drive the school culture and ethos and ensure that every child can be happy and thrive.

A new Feedback and Marking policy is also being introduced, following a successful trial, and we hope will have a positive impact in the classroom.

Pastoral

Governors monitor the wellbeing of pupils and staff. This includes looking at the results of pupil voice and staff surveys, identifying and understanding trends and changing needs, considering ways of working and workload reduction, and monitoring the impact of our pastoral provision and the roll-out and impact of our whole school MyHappyMind programme.

Focus areas for 2025/26

In September, we will work with the Headteacher and SLT team to refresh the SDP. Work is also currently ongoing and will continue into the new academic year to refresh the school mission statement and the vision we have for the school that incorporates our values – incorporating input from our community, staff, parents and pupils.

Other focus areas will include our whole school personal development curriculum offer, further work to embed MyHappyMind into school life and achieving the Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award.

The Governing Board will continue to evolve as two of our longest serving Governors, Sue Barratt and Rachael Manamley, are stepping down. We are extremely grateful for their hard work and input over many years and wish them the very best. We will also have a new Local Authority Governor and be holding another Parent Governor election in the next few months – and look forward to meeting our new members.

We will continue to work hard for the benefit of our pupils during 2025-26. In the meantime, we hope all children and families will enjoy a wonderful summer break and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Governing Board
July 2025