

ABBOTS RIPTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at Abbots Ripton CofE Primary School throughout the course of the 2020-21 academic year.

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government for Abbots Ripton CofE Primary School allows for 14 governors across different categories.

The Governing Body Membership currently stands at 10. A new Foundation Governor will be joining the Governing Body in September 2021, leaving three Governor vacancies that the Governing Body continues to work hard to recruit to, including working closely with our three Parochial Church Councils.

Through the course of the 20-21 Academic Year, there were no significant changes in the Governing Body composition.

Over the course of the 2020-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has been chaired by Dr Robin Price, with Mrs Colombe Flint as Vice Chair.

The work of the Governing Body has been supported by Mrs Linda Nixon, as Clerk to Governors.

Over the course of the year, Governors at Abbots Ripton CofE Primary School demonstrate an overall positive attendance and engagement with their work, and we have maintained a full programme of remote governor meetings. 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, Abbots Ripton CofE Primary School also has three sub-committees, in order to ensure sufficient oversight, support and accountability towards areas of identified priority and statutory coverage.

The school names these committees as:

- Resources, Health, Safety, Security, Property and Wellbeing Committee – which mainly deals with HR, Finance, including Pupil Premium expenditure and impact, Health and Safety, Premises and Wellbeing.
- Data, Evaluation and Monitoring Committee – which mainly deals with the curriculum, assessment and data and SEND.
- Faith Matters Committee – which mainly deals with all aspects of our SIAMS self-evaluation process.

All three 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.

In addition to the above, the school also constitutes a Pay Committee and Headteacher Performance Management Panel annually.

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 maintained a full programme of meetings, and has continued to adapt to meeting successfully via Zoom. The Governing Body have demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Supporting the creation of and assessing the implementation of a comprehensive Covid Risk Assessment and Protocol enabling the safe return to school for children and adults alike.
- Receiving regular updates from our head teacher on safeguarding matters, the effectiveness of our home schooling practice and delivery of our School Development Plan.
- Monitoring of attendance before and after the re-opening of school; we are delighted that the school, at the time of writing, was in the top 10% of Cambridgeshire schools for overall attendance, and in the top 20% for our free school meals children.
- A strong focus on ensuring the wellbeing of staff, children and families at our school during these unprecedented times.
- A continued focus on the long-term sustainability and strategy of our school, culminating in the decision to allow the opening of a pre-school on the school site in September 2021 to hopefully secure a stable roll moving forward.

Impact of the work of the Resources, Health, Safety, Security, Property and Wellbeing Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Resources, Health, Safety, Security, Property and Wellbeing Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Detailed work around the legal and practical aspects associated with the pre-school application, including stakeholder communications.
- Discussing and monitoring the use of Covid catch-up funding, alongside Pupil Premium and Sports Premium funding.
- The ability to deliver the school budget for the school year, and to set a balanced budget for the following year.

- Taking over the responsibility for our school kitchen provision following a detailed review of the performance of our external catering provider.
- Discussion around a new classroom structure due to a reduced EYFS intake in September 2021.

Impact of the work of the Data, Evaluation and Monitoring Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Data, Evaluation and Monitoring Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Assuring ourselves through monitoring that remote learning has been translated into a new policy following DFE guidelines, and has been embedded for future use and that any transferable learnings have been taken across to face to face practice.
- Development of our whole school curriculum to include new resources.
- Ensuring that all children have had access to devices and resources to ensure that they can access all remote provision irrespective of home circumstances.
- Development and consultation on a revised RSE policy.

Impact of the work of the Faith Matters Committee

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

- Supporting our RE lead and the whole staff in the continued development of our self-evaluation against the SIAMS Framework. This has involved a detailed and comprehensive 'back to basics' review of our entire approach, led by our ex-officio parish priest.
- Ensuring effective provision of Collective Worship throughout the Covid pandemic and while the school was closed.

Governor Training

Governors work is collectively undertaken, 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;

- Whole governing body Safeguarding Training delivered by our Headteacher.
- Staying up to date with COVID guidance.
- LA Briefings – in order to remain up to date with latest Local Authority information regarding the approaches towards safe school reopening.
- Continued upskilling of new governors.
- Safer Recruitment training for a new governor.
- School finance for small schools briefings.

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).

Monitoring has been difficult this year remotely but the Governing Body have endeavoured to stay abreast of the school practice through regular Zoom updates and meetings including:

- Safeguarding review with the County included our Safeguarding Governor
- Staff personal development
- Remote classroom visits
- Curriculum visits
- RSE provision
- Remote learning provision, ensuring we were meeting DFE requirements and following our own policy.
- Collective Worship

Forward Planning

Following the above impact of 20-21, the Governing Body looks forward to returning to a more “normal” structure to it’s work in the forthcoming academic year. This will include;

- A focus on any areas of educational development as school life returns to ‘normal’ as identified through data analysis.
- Ensuring that the school is suitably prepared for our forthcoming SIAMS inspection in the next academic year.
- Continuing to monitor the impact of Covid on the staff, children and their families' mental health and wellbeing.
- Continuing to monitor the impact of catch-up funding and other funding in school (Pupil Premium, Sports Premium).
- Integrating the new pre-school into our school community.

Other information and contact

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at http://www.abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk/website/our_governing_body_/209682

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 clerk@abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk regarding the work of the Governing Body.