



Bishopswood School

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11th March 2022

Dear Staff, Volunteers, Parents, Carers and Wider Community Members,

The Interim Governing Board met on 28th February 2022 for their first full meeting with the school leadership team.

At the meeting, we covered a wide range of topics including schools' plans (in partnership with the Local Authority) to drive rapid school improvement, safeguarding and health and safety. Governors were pleased to see a clear and robust plan of action in place which focusses on all the key areas for the pupils in our school (as observed by the Governors through Governor monitoring). It was positive that Governors and school leaders were aligned on the key areas of focus and development for the school. Governors received updates on all key areas of school and, along with their in-school monitoring, concluded that positive progress has been made in a short space of time with a clear initial focus on safeguarding, facilities, and resources. It was also great to hear that there are still lots of positive wider curriculum activities happening across school, including the partnerships with Make Sense Theatre, Relax Kids and Usports and the children's community visits including to the local shops, Earth Trust, the Library, and local parks. Governors were also pleased to hear of the investments to improve the facilities and resources for our pupils and staff members, including improved working conditions and an investment in staff CPD and pupil resources.

Governors would like to thank all staff and volunteers for their tremendous hard work and commitment so far, and Governors look forward to supporting them as well as all parents and pupils as the school continues its improvement journey.

It has been brought to my attention that in a recent Henley Standard newspaper article about Bishopswood's Ofsted inspection outcome, it stated that: *As it is a special school, the Education Secretary will not issue an order enabling the school to be converted into an academy but instead Bishopswood will be monitored.* I wanted to clarify that this statement is factually incorrect. As discussed in the recent parent meeting (and detailed in the slides shared and available on the Governor page of the school website), our school has been issued with an academy order and will be required to convert to an academy and join a multi-academy trust (MAT). As we discussed at the parent meeting, this will present significant

opportunities for our school to ensure that we continue to make rapid school improvement for our pupils and become a thriving school with a very positive future. Once we receive confirmation from the Regional School's Commissioner on which MAT we will join, we will update you.

At present, the Head Teacher, Janet Kellett remains on leave, and I cannot give any further updates at this point. However, we continue to receive excellent support from Stephanie Coneboy (and her team) from the Propeller Academy Trust who is currently providing additional leadership capacity at the school. Stephanie is the Headteacher at Fitzwaryn School, a special school in Wantage rated Outstanding by Ofsted and she has worked in education for over 30 years, bringing a wealth of experience to support the school.

We have only received a small number of parental responses to the parent questionnaire. We have now extended the deadline until 31st March 2022 and so if you have not done so already, please spare a few minutes to complete the short survey available [here](#).

I understand that for some of you it will still be an unsettling time but hope the governance and leadership arrangements in place along with the Local Authority support will give reassurance that rapid change is happening and will continue. Governors are keen to ensure an open and honest dialogue with our community and so will be holding another online event on Microsoft Teams, this will be in the daytime (based on feedback) and details will follow shortly. This will be an opportunity to ask Governors and school leaders questions and discuss topics which are most important to you.

If you have any questions above governance, then please feel free to email me on kevin.moyes@bishopswoodschool.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Moyes', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kevin Moyes
Chair IGB

Introducing the Interim Governing Board

Kevin Moyes – Chair of Interim Governing Board



Kevin has been a governor since 2012, he is currently the Chair of Governors at Gateway Primary School in Carterton and Five Acres Primary School in Bicester. Kevin has previously chaired 3 Interim Executive Boards for Oxfordshire County Council; the first where the school moved from Requires Improvement to Good and the others where the school moved to Requires Improvement. Kevin carries out governor training for Oxfordshire's Governor Services. Kevin is a reserve member of the Oxfordshire Schools' Forum and the Oxfordshire Governors' Association. He became a governor because he had a very poor primary school education and he wanted to ensure that other children did not have the same experience, because he knows first-hand the challenges this creates. Kevin's works as Chief People and Organisational Development Officer for a large UK Charity which supports adults with learning disabilities.

Elaine Ricks



Elaine started her career in education, which spans over 40 years, as an English teacher in Oxford, progressing to secondary school leadership, and then to school inspection and advisory work. Elaine has held a range of senior educational positions including Principal Adviser for School Improvement and Governance for West Berkshire, Senior Regional Adviser for the National Strategies, and County English & Secondary School Adviser for Buckinghamshire. Elaine is also the joint author of the National Association for Able Children Challenge Award which has been awarded to 450 schools across England, Wales and internationally. Elaine now works on a part-time basis as Director of the Berkshire Leadership Development Partnership and School Improvement Consultant. Elaine is also a school governor and remains driven by a passion to ensure that every young person, irrespective of their background, achieves the best education possible.

Mark Winch



Mark has been a Governor in Oxfordshire for over 9 years and has Chaired in both the primary and secondary sectors. In those 9 years Mark has been part of a Governor Board that moved an inadequate school to outstanding as well as working to make the school the hub of the local community. Mark carries out Governor training for Oxfordshire County Council and supports other Governing Boards in improving their governance practices. Marks background is in the NHS where he has held a number of board level roles with responsibility for governance, performance, organisational change and strategic implementation. He is passionate about building the links between schools and the wider community and ensuring that schools offer the best education to all its children.