



# Bishopswood School

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16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to those of you who attended the Parents/Carers meeting last week. It was great to see (virtually) so many of you there. It felt like a very positive meeting and that the whole school community is committed to working together to achieve the very best for the children at our school.

Attached to the covering email you will find a copy of the presentation used and below you will find a summary of the questions and answers we covered. These will be especially useful to those who were unable to attend the meeting.

The Governors are keen to hear from as many Parents/Carers as possible about your experiences of Bishopswood School. This will help us to ensure we understand any challenges and the things the school does well so we can factor these into our plans. Please could you therefore take part in a short anonymous questionnaire by clicking [here](#). Please complete this survey by Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

As discussed at the meeting, we will be communicating with you on a regular basis through our post Interim Governing Board meeting communication and through other engagement sessions with you (details will follow in later months once set up).

If you have any questions about the governance at your school, then please do email me: [Kevin.moyes@bishopswoodschool.co.uk](mailto:Kevin.moyes@bishopswoodschool.co.uk).

Best wishes,

**Kevin Moyes**  
**Chair of Governors**

## **Questions and Answers**

### **Q: Safeguarding is a big concern. What is happening around this?**

*A: As per the presentation, a lot of working has happened around this in partnership with the OCC Safeguarding Team who have visited our school and drawn up an action plan. They will revisit at regular intervals to check our progress. We are working to change the school culture, so we have a safeguarding culture, staff attend the OCC 7-minute briefings, staff are all trained in safeguarding.*

### **Q: Bishopswood in the past was always a very inclusive school. Will this be a focus area?**

*A: Yes, the school leadership team and the IGB are dedicated to ensuring our school is as inclusive as possible for our parents/carers, staff, and pupils. The plans we are developing will ensure that any opportunities to improve inclusion are realised.*

### **Q: When the school becomes an academy, will there be a reduction in parental engagement?**

*A: It would be expected that parental engagement continues in the same way as today. Parents and Carers will also be an important part of the school community and any academy trust would need to partner closely with them.*

### **Q: How can parents/carers help with the recruitment challenges?**

*A: Share the adverts with their networks. If have experience in recruitment share useful contacts who would be willing to help us at no cost. If interested and have relevant skills and experiences – apply for the positions, share details of local radio stations/newspapers etc.*

### **Q: Recently classes have closed due to staff shortages – can we make sure that class closures are equitable i.e. not always impact on the same group of children?**

*A: We will endeavour to do this as well as call parents to let them know (vs. replying on emails and messages).*

### **Q: In some classes there is a poor ratio of girls to boys – can we address this?**

*A: In special schools it is quite common to have 2/3 boys. We will however take the gender split into account when we can to ensure there is a good mix.*

### **Q: The school has in the past gone through a period of expansion which has created challenges including for class sizes and facilities how are we addressing this?**

*A: This has been picked up by the leadership team, and we are currently reviewing our admission numbers with OCC. We do not have any immediate answers, but we are looking at classes and where children will be. Also, in discussions with the SEN Team at OCC to review the school profile.*

### **Q: I don't feel like I know what my child has done at school – I want to see evidence/get reassurance – what are we doing about this?**

*A: We are currently reviewing the best system to use to ensure parents receive regular updates on what their child has been doing including photos etc. – more will follow on this.*

### **Q: Concerned that we do not have a school nurse on site – what is happening with this?**

*A: We are working with the nursing team on this and the Consultant Headteacher and IGB have escalated their concerns. We ask parents impacted to share their feedback with school so we can also share this with the nursing team. It looks as though we should have a resolution for next term.*

**Q: Parents were unaware of the Ofsted inspection -why did the Ofsted Parent View survey not go out before the inspection?**

*A: Difficult to know the reason for this, but we will be asking parents to complete a survey shortly.*

**Q: Concerned with report findings on physical restraint – are all staff team teach trained?**

*A: Most staff are trained. Some newer staff members are waiting to be trained and we are partnering with the Primary school on site so staff can be trained outside of our training cycle.*

**Q: What are we doing to support staff and ensure they stay with us?**

*A: There have been various staff meetings and briefings to discuss and respond to any staff concerns and wellbeing support is available should they need to access this.*

**Q: Due to staff COVID absence continuity of staff for the pupils has not been there which has a big impact on them – what are we doing to address this?**

*A: Where possible we will strive to ensure continuity of staff for our pupils, and we will ensure there is some equity where possible in which classes are closed. However, due to the recruitment challenges and the need to use agency staff to ensure we can remain open, it is a challenge.*

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