

Governor Report to Parents September 2018 to July 2019

List of Priory School governors

Jacqueline Laver - Head Teacher
 Roy Barrett – Chair of Governors
 Sarbjit Kaur Dhillon - Vice Chair of Governors
 Rachael Bartlett
 Jo Thethi
 Angela Wilks
 Richard Collman
 Jo Evans
 Andrew Watson - Staff Governor

REPORT HEADLINES

Another great Ofsted result “Priory is a Good School”

Brand new “Enchanted Library”

New nursery floor ready for 2019 /20

Brand new Outdoor Gym

Brilliant new school web site

Sainsbury’s Gold Sports Award

Over 180 hours volunteered by governors

Jacqueline Laver taking early retirement

Governing Body changes

At the end of this school year we said goodbye to Sarbit who is leaving as a governor. We thanked her for the tremendous contribution she has made particularly as Vice Chair and as a leader on the Health and Safety committee. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Linda Burniki who will be joining us in September. She will have special responsibilities as a member of the Standards Committee, (pupil progress & attainment). Jo Evans (nee McGovern) is joining us as a governor with special responsibility for finance. Our most excellent Clerk, Liz Critchlow left us mid-year, which was a great shame, but we were very fortunate to have Kathryn James join us straight away. Kathryn used to be in the admin team at Priory School, so she knows us very well.

The work of the Governors – 180 hours of voluntary service

This table shows the committee meetings attended by the governors during the school year and the number of hours spent.

	2018				2019						
Committees	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Full Governing Body		X		X		X	X		X		
Finance & Personnel		X		X		X	X				X
Standards Results			X			X					
Health & Safety	X		X				X	X			
Other Activities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	x
Total Hours Spent	8	35.75	19	21.75	18.25	15	22.5	4	19.5	5.5	11.5

The role of the governing body is absolutely key to the effectiveness of a school. Each individual governor is a member of the governing body. The role of the governing body is a strategic one; its key functions are to:

- Set the aims and objectives for the school
- Set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- Set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- Monitor the progress the school is making towards achievement of its objectives
- Be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher

Governing body actions & input in the year

Budget / Investment - monitoring to ensure financial strength and stability

The school's financial position is strong and in line with agreed budgets

We released funds for the nursery floor replacement £19,000, the new Enchanted Library £126,000 and the fabulous new Outdoor Gym – see images below.



PRIORY'S NEW ENCHANTED LIBRARY & OUTDOOR GYM*

School Policies - reviewed policies and updated as necessary

All school policies are compliant

Pupil Attainment - monitored pupil progress and attainment

Ofsted – “KS2 reading, writing & maths are above average”

Health & Safety - monitored health and safety compliance

School walks by governors to check first-hand compliance

Safeguarding – discussed and reviewed at every Governing Body meeting

Ofsted - “You are supported well by governors who keep suitable oversight of the school's work, including safeguarding.”

Curriculum – reviewed the school's curriculum

The curriculum offers even more than the national curriculum standard

Ofsted said.....the curriculum is well planned and is a strong element – enriched with sports and music teaching which contribute strongly to pupils' learning

Updated to integrate British Values

School Sports - Sainsbury's Gold Sports Award retained

The Gold Sports Award is for a superior level of sports offered in the curriculum

Many out-of-school clubs and opportunities for pupils to participate in competitive events

Special emphasis on improving participation by girls

Parent relations –Priory School has good parent relations

Additional member of staff recruited to work with families

Governors had two special meetings with parents with special concerns

Relationships are warm and supportive throughout the school

New web site launched

**Outdoor Gym is fully installed and ready for landscaping to be completed*

Governor training - Wide range of courses attended by governors including
New Ofsted inspection arrangements presentation
Safeguarding
Health and safety

Thames Valley Chamber of commerce October 2018

School joined TVCC to promote awareness of the school and to link to businesses
Enrolment fee waived as a special TVCC schools link strategy

2019 / 2020 School Priorities

Ofsted recommendations with total support from Governors

1. Strengthen the strategic oversight of behaviour and reduce the number of exclusions
2. improve pupils' attendance and reduce persistent absence
3. Reduce the attainment gap between SEND & disadvantaged and that of other

Key Governor Objective for 2020 - Recruit a new Head Teacher

After 30 years at Priory School Jacqueline Laver has decided to take early retirement and will leave us on December 31st. She has been the main force behind driving the school forward with great results and we thank her for her 17 years of dedicated service as Head Teacher.

In the meantime, the governors have begun the search for a new Head Teacher. The job vacancy will be online on September 2nd with interviews scheduled for mid-October. The aim is to have the new Head in post ready for the start of the new term in January or at the latest by Easter 2020.

This is possibly the single most important role for the governors, and we are confident of finding the right person. We will keep you informed.

REPORT SUMMARY

- Another successful year for Priory School – we are a “GOOD” school
- A superb Ofsted report – full of praise and encouragement
- The school finances are in order and in line with agreed budgets
- The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school
- The school is led with drive and energy and ably supported by the Senior Leadership Team
- The curriculum is enriched and in line with Ofsted’s recommendations
- Governors support the school well and they keep suitable oversight of the school’s work, including safeguarding and finance
- Parent relations are good
- Governors are confident about the successful future of Priory School and the ability to meet any challenges coming our way in 2019/20
- The governors are prioritising 3 key Ofsted recommendations and finding a new Head Teacher