



Castle Primary School

From small foundations, great castles grow

Governor Newsletter

January 2018

A message from our Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and we trust you had a truly wonderful Christmas.

Since our last governor newsletter in September, we have welcomed two more governors, Keith Lloyd and Anna Sheppard, to the team at Castle. You can read more about them overleaf.

Everybody worked extremely hard last term to make our school the best it can be for the children, focussing on their development of skills in Literacy and Numeracy within an exciting and stimulating curriculum. As governors, we recognise the efforts and good work of all staff in contributing to the school's continuing progress in many areas and thank them for their hard work. We would also like to thank all the children, parents and members of the community that make our school successful.

If you would like any further information about the school, please do not hesitate to visit our website where we have a myriad of documents to help your understanding of how our school operates. We, as governors, wish to encourage you to understand more fully the work of the governing body and are now going to publish our minutes on the website. Below you will find a list of the meetings of the full Governing Body. If you wish to attend any of these as an observer (I'm afraid there will be no opportunity for you to address the governors) please apply in writing to the Clerk, Mrs. S. Derrick, c/o the School Office, within 7 school days of a meeting. If there are any issues of a confidential nature you will be asked to withdraw for that section. Please note that, although the minutes are a public document once they have been ratified, the proceedings are confidential and not available for discussion outside. Thank you.

Best wishes,
Chrissie Arnold
Chair of Governors

Meetings of the Full Governing Body

(These are usually on Wednesdays)

January 24th 6 p.m.

May 16th 6 p.m.

July 18th 6 p.m.

Governors



1





From small foundations, great castles grow

Our Values

These underpin everything we do at Castle!

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

Independence

Creativity

Our New Governors at Castle



Keith Lloyd

- Co-opted Governor
- Link Governor for Science

After teaching in primary and secondary schools in the UK, Keith held two primary headships in Oxfordshire, followed by Local Authority advisory work in Derbyshire. He was

appointed as Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) in 1987 and was head of the primary and independent schools' division in Ofsted from 1996 to 2003.

Since leaving Ofsted in 2003, Keith has worked as a consultant at CfBT, Capita and the National College for School Leadership, where he was closely involved with the training and assessment of School Improvement Partners and writing professional development material for middle leaders. He is currently a consultant with Oxford University Press, specialising in supporting senior and middle leaders in using assessment and performance data for school improvement. Keith is married with four children and seven grandchildren. His main interests are golfing, walking and bird watching.



Anna Sheppard

- Parent Governor
- Finance Committee

My name is Anna Sheppard, and I have been involved with Castle Primary School since September 2008. My son started here at the beginning of his Year 5, and my daughter is currently in Year 5. I have been an active

member of the PTA ever since, and thoroughly enjoy it. I am excited about my new role as Parent Governor, and am looking forward to the challenges ahead, as I learn more about how the school is run.



2

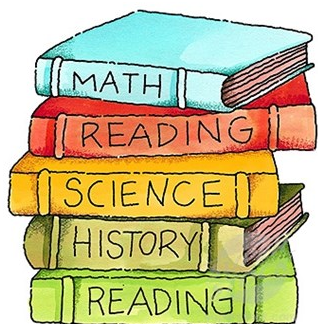


In order to improve, as governors, our understanding of how the school works,
we have introduced a:

New Curriculum and Pupil Welfare Committee

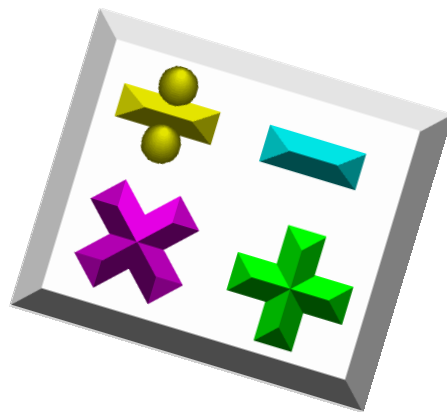
Committee membership includes;

Chair—Alyson Marlor
Vice-Chair—Louise Mattingley
Chrissie Arnold
Keith Lloyd
Nicky Wake
Alison Blackman



Governors' links with specific areas in School

Attendance - Chrissie Arnold
Early Years Foundation Stage - Louise Mattingley
English - Alyson Marlor
Governor Training - Chrissie Arnold
Health and Safety - Ruth Nash
Mathematics - Tina Murphy
Physical Education - Ruth Nash
Pupil Premium - Louise Mattingley
Safeguarding - Chrissie Arnold
School Travel Plan - Tina Murphy
Science - Keith Lloyd
Special Education Needs & Disabilities - Louise Mattingley



If you wish to make a complaint

Issues which have not been resolved through the class teacher in the first instance should be made to the Headteacher. It is hoped that, in most cases, these will be resolved at this informal level. However, in the unlikely event that attempts at a local level fail, there is an agreed Local Authority Complaints Procedure that should be followed. If you require further information on this, full details are available from the Office and the school website.



3





What successes were there last year?

At Year 2 (the end of Key Stage 1) both Reading and Writing were slightly above the National Average and they scored significantly higher percentages than last year. Maths also improved significantly to finish inline with the National Average.

At Year 6 (the end of Key Stage 2) Boys' Reading scored above the National Average and this was a very significant improvement over the previous year.

What are we trying to improve this year?

- teaching and achievement in maths
- the quality of phonics teaching and spelling
- reading outcomes
- middle leaders (these are our subject leaders)

Our leaders and governors are focussing on consistently improving outcomes for all pupils and we would appreciate the support of all our parents and carers, which we consider to be vital to success, thank you!

Attendance

Attendance last year was 95.25% with the average in B&NES of 95.7%. This year, unfortunately attendance to date is at 94.2%. Whilst we understand that most of this is due to illness at this time of the year, this will be monitored closely by governors and the Local Authority.

Persistent absence

Last year, there were a total of 34 pupils with less than 85% attendance. This year, 28 pupils have less than 85% attendance, this is a significant number and we need your help to improve this please.

Punctuality

A large number of children are arriving late to school late in the mornings. **Doors open at 8.40 am** in the main school so that children have five minutes to arrive and settle, **ready to start promptly at 8.45 am**. Arriving late means children aren't able to join in with their friends as they start the morning, and their attendance figures are affected. It can be very embarrassing for children to enter a lesson that has already begun. Governors and B&NES's Children Missing Education Service do monitor these figures.

At Castle Primary School leaders and governors have children's safety, welfare and learning at the forefront of all decision-making. Every member of staff and each governor is working together as a strong team to improve and raise outcomes for your child. Pupil voice, through the School Parliament, and parent consultation through regular meetings and surveys, mean that the whole school community is part of the consultation and decision making process. The Headteacher and her Senior Leadership Team work hard to identify priorities, plan and action developments for these and monitor impact and outcomes closely. The Governing Body monitors school improvement priorities through regular visits to the school for meetings and lesson observations; it also spends time on scrutiny of documentation and ensures that the Headteacher and staff are regularly and rigorously appraised. In all, the 'Team' ethos at Castle Primary School is key to the successful learning of all our children. Your support, as part of this team, is vital to our children's success.



4

