

As the Governing Body of the School we have three core strategic functions. These are set out in the Governors' Code of Conduct and can be summarised as:

- Establishing the strategic direction, which means setting the vision, values, and objectives for the school and such things as agreeing the school improvement strategy, priorities and targets
- Ensuring accountability, which involves such things as appointing and performance managing the head teacher, monitoring progress toward targets, and contributing to school self-evaluation
- Ensuring financial probity, through activities such as setting and monitoring spend against the budget and ensuring risks to the organisation are managed.

In preparing this post we wanted to share the key issues that have been faced and addressed by the Governing Body in the context of the above remit, and the impact that the Governing Body has been able to have on the performance of the school.

Without doubt the most significant issue faced by the Governing Body over the last two school years has been the secondment and subsequent departure of the School's Head teacher, and in particular the extended period of uncertainty that occurred in the process. During that period the Governing Body was very much focussed on supporting the Acting Head and school staff who were worked extremely hard to maintain the high standards Bicton C. E. Primary School prides itself on. We are very pleased how well the school worked through that period and delighted that we have been able to appoint such high calibre staff as Head teacher and Deputy Head and return strength and stability to these key leadership positions.

The second key issue that we have faced is the introduction of the new National Curriculum and testing and assessment frameworks. The Governing Body has been working closely with the staff to ensure that the school improvement strategy sits at the heart of priorities, targets and performance management within the school. We are confident that this is having a real positive impact in driving school improvement, during what is recognised as a very challenging time for staff and pupils.

The final key issue that we have faced is the future of the Pre-School. We have approached this situation as a positive opportunity both to enhance the educational outcomes provided by the Pre-School and also to enhance the outcomes achieved subsequently through KS1 & KS2. By doing this we believe that we will strengthen the school, its attractiveness to parents, and its longer term success as a high calibre educational establishment.

In addition to these issues, the Governing Body is excited about the future for the school and the energy and enthusiasm of the Parents and Children of Bicton C. E. Primary School. Two projects that demonstrate the reasons for such excitement are:

- The Wildlife Garden project, for which FOBS (Friends of Bicton School) has been successful in winning a grant of £12,000 from Tesco;
- The Eco Room project, funded by the School, which will provide an additional room dedicated to the subjects of Science and Nature, and will integrate with the Wildlife Garden area.

Both of these projects will proceed in 2016 and will provide a fantastic enhancement to the facilities and environment and hence the educational experience that Bicton C. E. Primary School and its staff will be able to provide to the children.

We hope that this short insight to the issues and focus of the work of the Bicton School Governors makes our work that much more transparent.

Yours sincerely

Shirley Ansell

Chair of Governors