

Elsworth C of E Primary School

Governors Newsletter

July 2024



Welcome to our Newsletter!

Letter from the Chair

On behalf of the governors, I would like to thank you all for your support during another successful academic year.

As chair of governors I'm confident that we have a dedicated board all of whom are passionate about our school and committed to providing the best opportunities for our pupils to flourish. Each supports and challenges the school in equal measures and ensures our core responsibilities are met.

Having set a balanced budget at the start of the year, the governors ensured, through prudent financial management, that the school spent the budget wisely and therefore remained in the best position for the future. A budget for this year has taken into consideration those factors which are important to parents when choosing a school for their child and ensuring that our plans spending in these areas is building for future success and sustainability.

Wishing you all the best for a long, hot and peaceful summer holiday

Nick Wright

Chair of Governors

"Pupils are proud to attend this school. They speak positively about being part of a small school where everyone is known, accepted and cared for." Ofsted 2023

Role of Governors

Governance is a key part of a successful school. The school governing body has four core functions.

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure it's money is well spent.
4. Ensuring the voices of the stakeholders are heard.

A huge well done to all our staff and pupils for your hard work and achievements this year

What have the Governors been doing to improve the School this term?

- Monitoring the School Development Plan (SDP) for 2023/2024 to ensure all aspects of learning and wellbeing are of the highest quality in Elsworth C of E Primary School. We have also developed our SIAMS Self Evaluation Form (SEF), which forms part of the SIAMS Church of England inspection, and will continue to monitor and develop our SIAMS SEF. Governors are also looking to embed our new vision and mission within our policies and development planning.
- Focusing on ensuring and being part of a culture of safeguarding. Our safeguarding governor, Cathy, has done an excellent job making regular monitoring visits this year and reporting back. At our last meeting we reviewed our annual safeguarding monitoring report and saw a lot of evidence of high standards of safeguarding in the school. We also now have cyber security link governor to monitor the school's provision for the growing challenges around cyber attacks.
- Ensuring high standards in Health and Safety and looking at future capital expenditure and risks such as the boiler and oil prices and earmarking reserves for this. There will also be some capital spending on external paintwork over the summer to protect woodwork.
- Reviewing key policies, including our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy, Anti bullying and Teaching and Learning policies in detail. Governors follow best practice advice on policies ensuring statutory obligations are met and policies are robust and followed to improve outcomes.
- The Learning and Standards committee monitors learning outcome data. We reviewed our SATS data last week. Governors have been looking at more in depth ways of monitoring data to drill down further than just headline figures to understand any areas needing development and ways of continuing success. We provide a good level of challenge to the school on the data to fully understand the story behind it and what the school's response. The committee also have standing items around staff and pupil wellbeing and the breadth of curriculum as we hold these equally important for children's development as well as safeguarding.
- The Finance and Health and Safety Committee has been monitoring the school's budget ensuring value for money and money spent to maximum benefit of our children. They put forward a budget to the Full Governing Board, which was approved. The school is in a good financial position thanks to a lot of hard work in this area by staff. Governors have also been ensuring that staffing levels remain consistent and effective with appropriate appraisals to ensure that children are provided with effective teaching. This includes ensuring Forest School provision continues and that the Den provision is maintained.
- Governors also support the school's Eco Council and the Arts Award with 12 children recently achieving their Arts Award explore, an externally moderated award. We also received video updates from the children on the School Council, Eco Council, JTA and Big Barn group on the things they've achieved this year. Congratulations to all the children involved in these projects.

"Governors know the school well and provide appropriate support and challenge. They carry out their role effectively." Ofsted 2023

Thank you to the PTA

The PTA have done some fantastic events this year from cake sales and the discos to the Bunny Bounce and Summer Fayre. The recent summer fayre was a huge success helped by much better luck on the weather this year and a lot of wonderful volunteers!

The Governors would like to thank the PTA and all who volunteer to assist at all the brilliant events bringing our school community together and raising funds for the school.

Congratulations to Year 6

Congratulations to all our year 6 students on achieving their SATS and to all our staff who supported them during their school journey. This year's SATS results were brilliant and testament to the enormous effort that was put in. Over a third of pupils achieved Above Age Related Expectations (Greater Depth) in all areas with a huge 63% exceeding in the Grammar section. We'll have a fuller analysis when we get sent the data to see how we compare to other schools in September. The SATS results for May 2024 are as follows:

Children who have achieved Age Related Expectations in Year 6

Grammar 94%
Reading 69%
Maths 81%

Children who have achieved Above Age Related Expectations (Greater depth) in Year 6

Grammar 63%
Reading 38%
Maths 38%

We want to thank all our year 6s and their families for the contribution they have made to Elsworth school life and wish them every success in the future. We see the qualities we aspire to in our vision in our year 6s and hope they go out and make a difference in the world and also come back and visit!

Our vision at Elsworth C of E Primary School is to develop motivated, aspirational and courageous learners. Through embracing the Christian values of honesty, happiness and compassion, we lay the foundations as a community to love and serve one another and to make a difference.

Farewell to Mrs Lewis

Mrs Lewis has made an outstanding contribution to the School over many years as a TA, Forest School leader and Den leader and will be greatly missed as she takes a very well earned retirement. The Governors would like to thank Mrs Lewis for everything she has done and wish her all the very best for the future.

Meet the Governors

We have 10 Governors at Elsworth

			
Nick Wright Chair of Governors	Clair Harrison LA Governor Chair of Learning and Standards Subcommittee	Cathy Martin Chair of Finance Subcommittee	Kirstin Bicknell Foundation Governor
			Foundation Governor vacancy
Philip Gaskin Co-opted Governor	Hannah Holland Parent Governor	Lisa Kilian Parent Governor	
			Helen Andrews
Alan Mansey Foundation Governor	Dinah Papworth Foundation Governor	Mandie Thomas Staff Governor	Clerk to Governors

A bit about our Governors

Nick Wright

Chair of Governors

I am an arable farmer from Conington and a director of the White Swan pub. My four children attended Elsworth C of E Primary school between 1994 and 2006 and thrived. They went onto Swavesey Village College, Sixth form in Cambridge and beyond to university. I was chair of governors when my children attended Elsworth and I was delighted to be asked back for a second term.

I am an experienced councillor having been chair of Conington Parish meeting for 25 years and district councillor for the Caxton and Papworth Ward at South Cambridgeshire district Council for 18 years. My interests are local history, rugby, cricket and enjoying our wonderful countryside.

Clair Harrison

*Chair of Learning and Standards
subcommittee*

I became a Governor again at Elsworth school last year after a break of a few years. My background is Primary teaching and so I try to bring my knowledge and understanding of education to my role as Governor. Both my daughters came to the school and loved their time here. The school is very close to my heart and I love to spend as much time as I can working with the staff and children!

Cathy Martin

Chair of Finance and Health and Safety subcommittee

After qualifying as a social worker, I spent a number of years working in an inner-city area in child protection. I left work to travel and start a family, and lived in Dubai, Paris, Edinburgh and Derby before settling in Cambridge in 1995. I have four grown up children, all of whom were educated in a local Church of England primary school, where I have been a governor for the last 20 years. During my time in governance, I have had a number of roles and responsibilities including being a long serving Chair of Governors. I joined Elsworth in April 2021 and look forward to working alongside the other governors in continuing to promote and develop the school.

Kirstin Bicknell

I am an integrative psychotherapist and counsellor who runs a private practice in Elsworth. I was Chair at Elsworth Pre-School and have over 18 years experience in the voluntary sector, most recently as a trustee for Evolve Community Counselling Charity. My background includes arts administration, project management, marketing and fundraising and I'm a qualified secondary school teacher. I became a Foundation Governor in September 2020 and have a particular interest in wellbeing and inclusivity.

Philip Gaskin

I am a PhD-trained scientist currently working remotely for a US biotechnology organization in Business Development. My family moved to Yelling three years ago, and my daughter joined Elsworth CE Primary School in September 2022. I previously served on Huntingdonshire District Council and am pleased to have been co-opted to the Board of Governor's at Elsworth so I can help contribute to the success of the school in the coming years.

Hannah Holland

I've recently become a parent governor. I have one child, in Year 2 and another who will join in 2024. I have spent my whole working career in Education, working for two of the largest educational publishers and assessment awarding bodies in the world. The last 8 years being with Cambridge University Press & Assessment, as a Principal Business Analyst. My role is to help turn ideas into sustainable, fit for purpose solutions. I feel privileged to be working with the other members of the Governing body, to work towards ensuring our children have the best possible learning experience at our school.

Lisa Kilian

I was born in South Africa but have lived in the UK for almost 20 years. My son started in Reception last year and I have a very keen interest in promoting the success of Elsworth C of E Primary School.

By means of profession, I am a Chartered Accountant and work for a biotech company located in Cambridge. I have a tremendous passion for development, effective communication and collaboration.

I feel it is a privilege to serve on the Elsworth C of E Primary School Governing Body and look forward to ensuring our children are given the best opportunity to learn and thrive at our school.

Alan Mansey

I am a retired Civil Engineer from Boxworth and have lived in this area since 1986. My son attended Elsworth C of E Primary School from 2007 to 2014 and following retirement I am pleased to contribute to the school as a Foundation Governor. I was an LEA Governor of Bourn Primary School from 1997 to 2001 where I chaired the Finance Sub-Committee and was a member of Appointment Committees for teachers and a Headteacher.

For most of my career I was employed as a government Construction and Maintenance Manager working on the UK and overseas MoD estate. My interests are playing tennis, walking, and volunteering at IWM Duxford.

Dinah Papworth

I spent my working life in the Food Industry - firstly as Sales Director of a pork manufacturing business - and then I started up a delicatessen import business where I was Managing Director for several years.

I retired to bring up my two daughters and moved to Conington 20 years ago. As they have now 'fled the nest' I have been looking for a new challenge. I feel honoured to have been asked to be part of the governing body and welcome the opportunity to give something back into the community.

Mandie Thomas

Growing up in a village in South Wales, my education from primary school through to university was through the medium of Welsh. Music and the performing arts were valued and encouraged in all children and my experiences at school and at Trinity College, Carmarthen, where I majored in English and Drama, are the foundations for my passion for developing the whole child.

I have taught in London and Stevenage and was lucky enough to teach in Toronto, Canada for a year as part of an exchange project. Both my children attended Elsworth C of E Primary School and still talk fondly of their primary school days. I have taught at the school since 2005 and am currently teaching three days a week in Ruby Class - Year 3 and 4. I joined the Governing Body in September 2016 when I was appointed Deputy Head Teacher.

Clerk to Governors

We're pleased to announce that Helen Andrews has been appointed as our new clerk. Helen served as our temporary clerk this year and brings a huge amount of education governance experience.

ELSWORTH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR STAFF,
PARENTS, CARERS AND CHILDREN A LOVELY SUMMER BREAK

WE WISH OUR YEAR 6 LEAVERS EVERY SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE AND LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING OUR YOUNGER PUPILS BACK FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR IN SEPTEMBER