

Elsworth C of E Primary School

Governors Newsletter



July 2025

Welcome to our Newsletter!

Letter from the Chair

We are coming to the end of one of the schools most successful years. We are fortunate in having an outstanding, settled and hard-working head teacher and staff.

Our pupil numbers are good and we have robust finances. We have seen improvements to the school buildings with more to come. There has been higher achievement in SAT results, sport and many other activities.

Governor board visits to the school have found it to be safe, happy and a good environment for children to thrive with plenty of examples of good practice. I would personally like to thank everyone for their support as I come to the end of my term as chair of governors. It has been a pleasure to be involved with such an outstanding school

I wish you all an enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to September when everybody will be recharged to the start of another year.

With best wishes,

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

A huge well done to all our staff and pupils for everything you have achieved this year. We hope you have a wonderful summer.



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.

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

- Monitoring the School Development Plan (SDP) for 2024/25 to ensure all aspects of learning and wellbeing are of the highest quality in Elsworth C of E Primary School. We are looking towards our SDP for 2025/26 and are also now finalising our Self Evaluation Form (SEF), which forms part of the SIAMS Church of England inspection, with guidance and feedback from the diocese including a recent visit from them and several working party meetings.
- Focusing on ensuring and being part of a culture of safeguarding. We have a safeguarding lead governor who regularly checks the school's central record to make sure safeguarding is being monitored effectively. We are also refining the safeguarding questions that are asked during every governor monitoring visit to ensure a broad coverage of topics and triangulation with policy.
- Ensuring high standards in Health and Safety including going over risk assessments and working with the school Health and Safety pupil leads. The much anticipated refurbishment of the KS2 cloakrooms will be taking place over the summer, with many thanks again to the PTA for their fundraising efforts.
- Reviewing key policies including our Allegations against staff and volunteers policy, an important part of our safeguarding culture. Governors follow best practice advice on policies ensuring statutory obligations are met and policies are robust and followed to improve outcomes.
- The Governors reviewed the responses to the parents survey that went out earlier this year. There was a good response rate and very positive feedback from the majority of parents with over 90% satisfaction in many areas including pupil behaviour. Of particular note was a 100% positive responses from the parents of children with SEND about provision. The Governor's are grateful to all the parents who took time to respond and will look at any suggestions for improvements. Next academic year the governor's will be sending out a more specific survey linked to Christian values.
- Governors also reviewed the staff wellbeing survey. The school scored particularly highly in staff wellbeing in our Ofsted inspection in 2023. We all know that teaching is a very full on job so it was brilliant to see very positive responses from staff around how the school supports their wellbeing. We really value our staff and will keep checking in to make sure they have all the resources they need to do and to enjoy a wonderful job.
- The Learning and Standards committee monitors learning outcome data. They have reviewed the data this year and looked at how targeted interventions are being used to support pupils who need additional support whilst ensuring that that doesn't take away from wider teaching time. This included noting that with the end of KS1 SATS that there is increased time available for learning and the importance of this. The committee has received updates on the Oracy strategy and 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. This includes outdoor learning and Den provision.
- The Finance and Health and Safety Committee has been monitoring the school's budget ensuring value for money and money spent to maximum benefit for our children. The school is in a good financial position thanks to a lot of hard work in this area by staff. The committee has also reviewed policies including the References policy as part of our commitment to safer staff recruitment.
- Governors also support the school's Eco Council and wish to congratulate the Eco Council on their courageous advocacy for the environment this year.

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

Eco Council

I have the privilege of working with the Eco-Council made up of children from all over the school. We meet one lunchtime every week and after school as well if we have a big project that we are trying to aim for!

This year we are trying to work towards achieving the Eco-School Blue Plaque Award. The children and I had to audit the existing environment of the school and then choose three topics from the Eco-Schools list which we can work on over the year. This year we chose Energy, Global Citizenship and Marine. We then wrote an action plan for each of these areas and began our work for the year.

The children worked on smaller projects like posters for people to turn light switches off, solar panel research, writing pieces for the local newspaper and doing assemblies to promote awareness of our projects.

The children then devised a sponsored competition which raised £288 for charities. This was a fabulous achievement!

We then set to work building our big display – a piece of art which we hoped would inspire people to look after our oceans whilst also making everyone aware of the need for the whole world to work together to protect our marine life.

Hopefully we will achieve our Blue Plaque award – the bid is in!!!

Clair Harrison
Governor



Spirituality and SIAMS at Elsworth

Next year we'll be developing our shared language around spirituality in the School. Spirituality isn't specific to any religion and also applies to people of no faith. It includes the relationship we have with ourselves, others and the world including our connection to nature. Research has shown spirituality as a protective factor around mental health and we look forward to sharing more about this next year.

We've been notified that our SIAMS, Church of England inspection, will take place in 2026/2027. We've been preparing our self evaluation and have had some very positive visits from the diocese. Some of our foundation governors sat in on the last visit that included a pupil voice meeting. This included children with a Christian faith, no faith and other faiths. We had feedback on how strong the pupils were in being open to talk about faith and other faiths in a completely respectful way to one another and communicate their shared values. This reflected very successful teaching and collective worship sessions in the school. The children were articulate and compassionate and a credit to the school and their families. One or two governors had a tear in their eye by the end!

Thank you to the PTA

The Governors are very grateful to our active PTA and all those who volunteer and support school events. The summer fayre was particularly successful this year with a huge thanks to everyone involved.

This valuable support means that when children return in September there will be shiny new KS2 cloakrooms.

School Book Wishlist

Thank you to everyone who has bought a book from the school's wish list so far. If you want to support the school by buying a book please see

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/397UX23EKRGP?ref_=wl_share

The school will also put a donation slip in the book so the children can see where the book has come from.

Farewell to Revd. Nigel

The Governors wish to thank Revd. Nigel for his contribution to the School over the years, which included time as a school Governor.

We will look forward to welcoming Revd. Matt Phillips to the parish and school in September. Revd. Matt has a lot of experience working with schools. There is an Induction Service for Revd. Matt on Monday 1st September 7pm at Elsworth Holy Trinity Church.

We have decided to launch our project with other parish Churches in September to give more time for the children to make displays based on the school bible verse and for Revd. Matt to be invited to be involved.

For more about our local Churches see: <https://www.papworthteamchurches.org/>

Meet the Governors

We have 10 Governors at Elsworth

			
Nick Wright Chair of Governors	Clair Harrison LA Governor Chair of Learning and Standards Subcommittee	Alan Mansey 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
Jenny Fordham Foundation Governor	Dinah Papworth Foundation Governor	Kylee Todd 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!

Alan Mansey *Chair of Finance and Health and Safety subcommittee*

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.

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.

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.

Kylee Todd

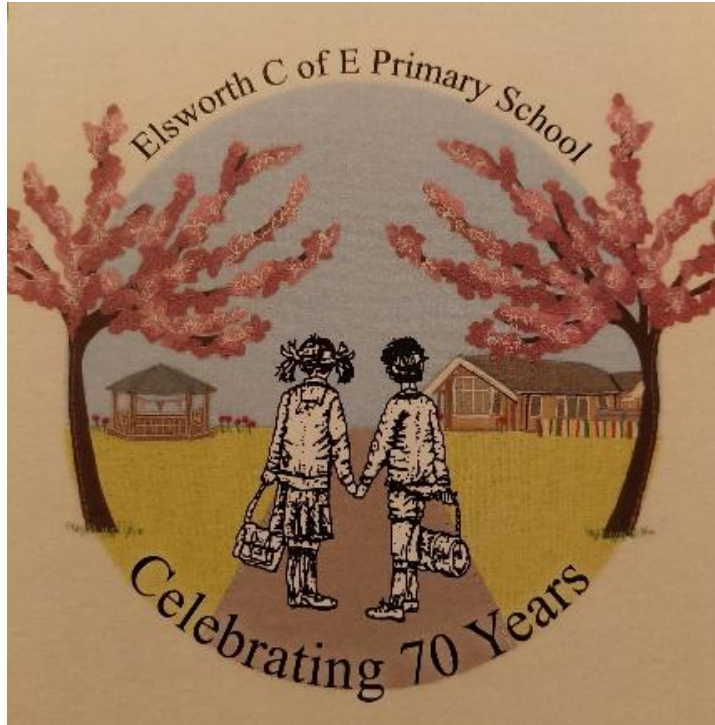
Mrs Todd is our Sapphire Class teacher and is bringing her valuable perspective on Early Years and experience as a teacher to our Governing Board.

Jenny Fordham

Jenny has just joined the Governing Board in this last week. More about her in our next newsletter!

Clerk to Governors

Helen Andrews is our clerk to the Governing body and brings a huge amount of education governance experience to the role.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR YEAR 6 STUDENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL TIME AT
ELSWORTH COE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WE WISH YOU ALL THE VERY BEST FOR THE FUTURE, DO 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.

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

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU BACK IN SEPTEMBER