



The Bellbird
Primary School



“This is a
good school.”
Ofsted 2019

ANNUAL GOVERNORS’ REPORT

2018/19

The Governors of The Bellbird Primary School are the group of parents, staff and members of our community that decide on school policies, hold the Headteacher to account for the school’s performance, and ensure that the school’s budget and other resources are best used. The Governors meet as a full group each half term, with some additional subcommittee meetings. Every year we provide a report to parents to tell you about the things that the Governors have been involved in during the year. This is our report covering the 2018/2019 academic year.

A VERY GOOD YEAR!



**Dr Tim Wreghitt,
Chair of Governors**

The last year has been a very good year for The Bellbird School, with a very good Ofsted report and excellent results in

SATs tests, as well as prizes such as the Cambridge News “Best Primary School in Cambridgeshire” award. The Local Education Authority has now completed the school extension, with five new classrooms, a performance area, enhanced DT and FLASH Club area making our school a two-form entry school, following our revised Pupil Admission Number increase to 60 pupils this September. The Governors have been busy supporting the school in many ways, including running a Science Club and supporting Outdoor Learning in the allotment area. All in all, a very good year! Let’s keep it up!

Dr Tracy Assari	Parent Governor
Mrs Elizabeth Taylor	Parent Governor
Mrs Maureen Tsentides	Parent Governor
Dr Katie Graham	Community Governor
Mr John Rimell	Community Governor
Mr Phil O’Dell	Community Governor
Mrs Florence Roegiers	Community Governor
Mr Henry Weir	Local Authority Governor
Mrs Sally Barron	Staff Governor
Two vacancies (election this term)	Parent Governor
Mrs Diane Baslington	Clerk to Governors

Parent Consultation	Duncan Macfarlane
Assessment	Henry Weir
Environment	Tim Wreghitt
FABS	Katie Graham
FLASH	John Rimell

Eileen Wheatley, Sarah Dott (nee Jarvis), Emma George and Jane Woodstock resigned as Governors this year and we thank them for their contribution to the work of the Governors. We welcomed Elizabeth Taylor, Maureen Tsentides and Florence Roegiers as new Governors.

GOVERNORS

Dr Tim Wreghitt	Chair
Mr Duncan Macfarlane	Vice Chair
Mrs Katie Kendall	Headteacher
Mr Nick Silk	Parent Governor

There are currently two vacancies for Parent Governors. Among our Board of Governors, we have various members who take a lead in key areas, including:

Finance	Phil O’Dell
Safeguarding	Henry Weir, Elizabeth Taylor & Florence Roegiers
Property and Safety	Nick Silk

HEADTEACHER’S REPORT

**Mrs Katie Kendall,
Headteacher**



After a very busy year with the builders and contractors on site, the extension project has now been completed. Staff have worked tirelessly over the summer break in order to ensure that the school is looking fantastic in preparation for the return of the children.



Despite all of the inevitable disruption brought about by the building work, the school continued to thrive and grow last year. Our statutory assessment outcomes yet again exceeded those of both the county and national figures. As well as recruiting several new members of staff to our growing team, we welcomed several new families to the school over the course of the year, as they moved into the village too, and new children continue to arrive.

We are delighted to have sufficient children on roll now to have a two-form entry across the school, utilising all 14 of our classrooms, and thus negating the need for any mixed age classes.

On top of our classrooms we have also gained an Art/ DT/ Science classroom to be used by teachers across the week

for specific projects. The staff are delighted to have a new work space in which to carry out their non-contact time for planning and preparation.

As part of the extension we have also got a spacious new 'performance area' at the back of the existing Atrium. This space will be used for a variety of activities such as key stage assemblies, PE, drama and circle time.

The whole building project has been finished off by the installation of fabulous new outdoor equipment including a new extended trim trail, a climbing structure and a marked out running/ walking track for all year-round use.



We have now employed a manager for our ever-expanding Breakfast and after school club, FLASH. Mrs Harrison,

who also works as part of the office team, is working closely with all staff to further develop the club to provide a stimulating and exiting environment for the children.

After super results across the board at the end of last year (see table), the icing on the cake was to be awarded a winning trophy for 'Primary School of the Year' at The Cambridge News Community and Education Awards as well as Mrs Diane Baslington also winning the category of 'Best Support Staff Member'.



'Primary School of the Year' winners the Bellbird School with editor-in-chief David Bartlett and managing editor Simon Edgley (Image: davidjohnsonphotographic.co.uk)

Subject	Level	The Bellbird	Local authority	Gap
Combined reading (test), writing (TA) & mathematics (test)	≥EXS ¹	75.0%	61.9%	+13.1%
	GDS ²	21.4%	9.1%	+12.3%
Reading	≥EXS ¹	75.0%	72.5%	+2.5%
	GDS ²	35.7%	28.1%	+7.6%
Writing (TA)	≥EXS ¹	82.1%	75.0%	+7.1%
	GDS ²	21.4%	16.5%	+4.9%
Mathematics (test)	≥EXS ¹	82.1%	75.8%	+6.3%
	GDS ²	46.4%	25.6%	+20.8%

¹ ≥EXS - at least or at Expected Standard ² GDS - Greater Depth Standard

FRIENDS & FUNDS

Dr Katie Graham

FABS (Friends at Bellbird School) had another wonderful year not only raising over **£13,000** but also supporting many fun events for the school. They ran a range of fundraising events to bring together the children, families and staff and the wider community such as Fun

Nights, Quizzes and Family Bingo nights and our "FABulous" Christmas and Summer Fairs. They also arranged fun events for the children such as Discos, Magic Shows and Easter Breakfast! They even found time to support the staff where possible - helping at The Harvest Festival, Sports Day and serving the children their Christmas lunch. The money raised

was spent on providing the school with many resources such as the new rainbow benches, an audio system for the hall, furniture and books for library. It also paid for swimming lessons and bike helmets to help keep all our children safe. And the visit from 2 authors to help inspire the children not to mention they paid for the pantomime (Oh yes, they did!!!). Thank you to all

that help to support all these amazing activities which benefit the whole school community in so many ways.

MONEY MATTERS

Mr Phil O'Dell

The school now spends around **£1.6m** per annum with approximately **94%** of this being funded by the government via the county council. Our continuing increase in pupil numbers meant that our last budget setting exercise was dominated by the desire to increase our number of classes to fourteen from September 2019. We achieved this through the extra government funding that each pupil gives us, plus some extra 'growth' funding from the county council and our own continued search for efficiencies in what we do. We are still not receiving the full amount of the government funding which is rightfully ours according to the formula they use. This is because the government phases in any increases due for individual schools to protect those schools in other parts of the country which will receive less funding. This rather frustrating part of the formula should be eliminated in 2020 and there are also strong indications that the government will be significantly increasing the funding level for schools as a whole.

“...we consistently meet the requirements of the county council, the government and Ofsted...”

As always we await the details but continue to plan in a prudent fashion for the benefit of our current and future children. We consistently meet the requirements of the county council, the government and Ofsted in the way we set our budgets and administer our finances. We thank our staff for their work in these areas and as always our wonderful local funding support, spearheaded by FABS.



Mr John Rimell

It has been a year of big changes for FLASH with four major changes:

First, as FLASH continues to get larger, the governors and FLASH team recognised that the administration work for tracking bookings and invoicing was taking an increasingly large amount of time. To address this the governors recommended a switch to an electronic booking system. The school selected the School Comms electronic booking system. This has not only automated the paperwork steps for the staff, it has given parents the ability to log on and see their bookings, place new bookings and see and pay outstanding invoices.

Second, through discussion with the governors, it was agreed that a new Afterschool Manager role be established to give the FLASH leadership team more planning time for activities, events and other after-school clubs. As announced by Mrs Kendall, following a successful recruitment, Louise Harrison has accepted the position, starting in September.

Third, following the change in the FLASH management structure, the governors have likewise changed their approach. Recognising the importance of the service, from September, the former FLASH governors sub-committee has been replaced with a focused lead governor, John Rimell, who will liaise with the FLASH manager and provide updates to the Full Governing Body.

Fourth, acknowledging the growing number of children at the Bellbird, the governors recognised the need to once again expand FLASH's capacity. This has always been limited by the physical size of the FLASH room. To address this, we have supported the plan to re-home FLASH to part of the new building extension. This will remove the space limitation and with current staffing allows FLASH to

accommodate 50 children starting in September. In the future we hope to be able to further expand this by recruiting more FLASH staff.

This is an exciting time of change for FLASH and the governors would like to thank all the staff for their continued dedication to providing the Bellbird children a fun and welcoming place both before and after school hours.

FEEDBACK

Mr Duncan Macfarlane

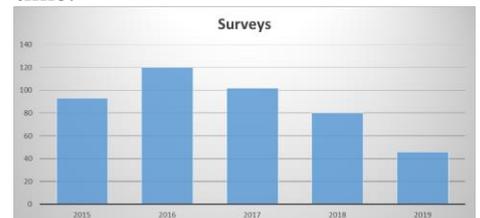


It is my fourth year performing the lead feedback governor role and it is great to get an appreciation of the consistency of feedback over this period.

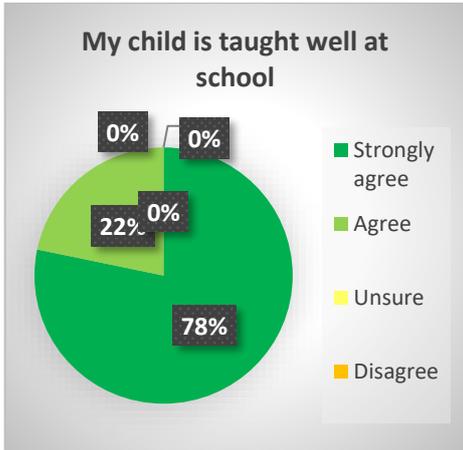
This year's parent survey included the addition of a question on which key stage the child is in. This helps us see if there are any differences between the key stages.

“I would urge all parents/carers to fill in the survey for each child...”

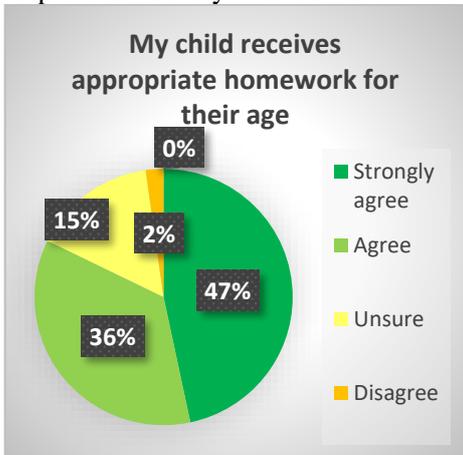
This year the number of responses we received was lower than in previous years. I would urge all parents/carers to fill in the survey for each child next time.



Highlights from this year's survey show that the view of the standard of teaching is high and is even better than last year...



...and that the view of the appropriateness of homework has improved on last year.



SHARING

To facilitate oversight of the various curricula areas, Governors pair with the Teacher Curricula Leads. A key feature of our Governor meetings is hearing presentations from subject leaders so we can understand more about what goes on in the classroom each day. This enables us to understand the challenges the staff face such as embedding new curricula and other educational initiatives and looking how this can be enriched at The Bellbird. We are always particularly keen to discuss resource matters with the teachers and how any additional funds we might manage to afford can be put to best use to help the children.

children. The Bug Hotel has some interesting guests. Again, this year, children have grown their own wheat, which they have threshed, ground into flour and made bread into rolls and sheaves for the Harvest Festival, thus completing the “farm to fork” food cycle. Outdoor Learning will be a major topic for innovation this year.



GREAT OUTDOORS

The Governors have worked with teaching staff, parents and children to improve the Outdoor Learning environment of the school in order to enhance the learning opportunities from this important school resource. The school and FABs have worked together to further revamp the Early Learning Years outdoor play space with new artificial grass which has greatly enhanced the area for the

THANK YOU

The Governors would like to thank all the school staff who have worked tirelessly over the last year to make The Bellbird School an excellent successful environment for learning, resulting in splendid SATs results. Their achievements are plain for all to see and they and our pupils are a credit to the school. Thank you also to our wonderful parents for your help and support.



HOW TO CONTACT US

Governors are contactable via the School Office and website. Any matters regarding day to day issues, including complaints, should be discussed with either your child’s Class Teacher or the Headteacher.