

Chair of Governors Annual Report for 2023/24



Introduction

Berkswell School prides itself in providing a welcoming, caring, thoughtful and loving environment for all pupils and staff, whilst at the same time offering an exceptional quality of education to all of its children from Nursery right the way through to year 6.

As a Church of England School, our school vision and Christian values run through every aspect of school life with daily assemblies providing worship and discussion. There are classroom worship areas throughout the school and the displays produced by the children are of exceptional quality.

The Governing Body

Details of the current Governors are shown on the schools website.

Each term there are 3 Governor meetings. The full board meet termly as do the Staffing and Standards Committee, and the Buildings and Finance Committee. The Instrument of Government allows for a total of 14 Governors, 8 Foundation Governors (2 appointed by Trustees of Berkswell Charities and 6 appointed by the Diocese), 2 Parent Governors, the Head Teacher, a Staff Governor, a Local Authority Governor, and 1 Co-opted Governor.



Governors come from a variety of backgrounds including teaching, legal, accounting, commercial and medical and each have specific responsibility for aspects of school governance.

Academic performance

Academically, the school enjoyed another successful year.

The school continues to be highly successful in the core subjects of education from Early Years through to Key Stage 2. Early Years have an 83% good level of development in all 7 of prime areas, compared the National figure of 68%. Key Stage 2 results were excellent:

| | Reading | Writing | Maths | Combined |
|-------------------|---------|---------|-------|----------|
| School Expected | 93% | 83% | 86% | 76% |
| National Expected | 74% | 72% | 73% | 61% |
| School Higher | 38% | 24% | 31% | 14% |
| National Higher | 29% | 13% | 24% | 8% |

The whole school attainment was very encouraging with 85% achieving expected or above expected in reading, 76% achieving expected or above in writing, and 84% achieving expected or above in maths.

There were 237 children attending School, including FS1 and FS2. Attendance levels have been over 95% which is above both local authority and national attendance levels.





School Curriculum

Apart from the above, the scope of the other subjects has been enormous, including Turrets and Towers, India, Blue Planet, Ready,



Steady Cook, Groovy Greeks, Lights, Camera, Action, Romans, Chocolate, Battle for Survival, Curse of the Mummy, Skating on Thin Ice, Home Sweet Home, to name but a few.

Appropriate relationship and sex education is offered to pupils from Foundation Stage to year 6 and computer safety including on-line access is an important aspect of pupil awareness.

In order to have a consistent and thorough approach to the school's anti-bullying policy, the school uses the KiVa programme.



Children receive regular lessons from this programme and understand about the importance of being a good friend and standing up to bullying.

Concerts and plays

For many, especially parents and carers, the highlights throughout the year are the many concerts and shows put on by children from all age



groups. This year we had the Christmas Nativity plays performed by Early Years and a special Nativity variation performed by KS1 pupils.

In the summer term the KS1 pupils put on a wonderful 'music from the shows' performance and not to be outdone KS2 pupils gave their amazing rendition of Peter Pan. We are blessed with so much talent within the school and with these productions who needs Britain's Got Talent?? A very big thank you to all the production and back-stage staff who work so hard to get these shows on the road.

School Outings

School trips also play a big part in developing the children's experiences. Every year we have the year 5 residential 'Rock' outing and of course a highlight for the for year 6 is their residential week away in Devon. Both outings involved activities that took most pupils (and probably teachers) way outside their comfort zone and all passed with flying colours. Other trips were as diverse as a visit to Coombe Abbey and a trip to the Sealife Centre.

Sports

We were very proud to have achieved a Gold School Games



Mark for the third year running. Every child across the school, from year 2 to through to year 6, had the opportunity to represent the school at a range of sports festivals and competitions. Children in years 3,4, and 5 also had professional coaching in cricket, golf and cheerleading. We had teams in football, netball and basketball leagues played across the year and took part in many competitions too numerous to mention here.

Additionally, children from years 2 to 6 took part in 'Personal Best' events, giving them the opportunity to take part in a range of athletic based activities with a focus on them achieving their own personal best.

Sports and similar activities proved very popular with 155 pupils on average attending extra-curricular clubs each week. These included basketball, cricket, netball, hockey, multi sports, dance and cheerleading, football, tennis, golf, and more. In July we held the annual sports day, when competition in the mums and dads races was very intense!

Thank you to all coaches/trainers for all their hard work and especially Mrs. L. Yates.

Other events

The children hosted local Christmas Lunch and Summer Tea Party for the local elderly residents and as always those attending had a wonderful time and in particular enjoyed the entertainment put on by the children.

This year the children enjoyed a special D-Day lunch. As ever, Mrs. Chauhan and her kitchen team put on delicious fayre for all these events.



Christmas celebrations put everyone in the festive spirit. Carols on the Green is always well supported as is the Christmas church service where everyone joins in with the prayers and carols. End of term Christmas parties were fun times for all.

Special Educational Needs

At Berkswell, children are at the heart of our curriculum. Every child is unique and special, and every child will be encouraged to achieve their full potential through a curriculum that is both inspirational and aspirational.

The schools SEND provision allows all pupils to maximise their potential and inspires them to shine.

The SEND provision may be summarised as follows:

- Identify any SEN as early as possible – very important
- Prepare an accurate assessment of the child's needs
- Plan in detail how the needs are to be met, monitored and supported
- Review the progress made on targets and how the needs of the child have been met



The school has two SEND leads:

Mrs. J. Barnes for Key Stage 2 pupils

Mrs. L. Connell for Key Stage 1 and EYFS.

The partnership between parents and the school plays a key role in promoting a culture of positive expectation for SEND pupils supported through termly consultations, annual reports, SEND reviews and informal discussions with an 'open door' policy.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding plays a vital role in the wellbeing of everyone connected to Berkswell School.

Everyone at school, including Governors, undergo vigorous training on safeguarding and KCSIE on at least an annual basis. A detailed Child Protection Policy appears on the school website. The designated safeguarding lead is Mrs. T. Drew.



Our Christian Values

As a caring Christian family, our mission is to create a happy and safe environment where everyone is valued, listened to and respected. Our lives are guided by spiritual, moral, and Christian values with our faith at the heart of everything we do. We nurture individuals, enabling them to become compassionate, thoughtful and considerate. Children are helped to develop lively, enquiring minds where they are able to question and articulate their thoughts whilst valuing the opinions of others.



As part of the Coventry Diocese, the school is grateful for the support given by the Diocese, especially with Christian values, SIAMS inspections and guidance on establishing our Christian Vision and our new RE curriculum.

Berkswell Trustees

At the end of the summer term, Berkswell Trustees presented a Bible to each of year 6 children as they leave Berkswell to go on to secondary school.

The Governors are extremely grateful and appreciative of the financial support given by the Trustees of Berkswell Charities in maintaining the fabric of the school buildings and their surroundings.

Parent Teachers Association



We have an active PTA which provides valuable financial support for school projects and gets parents, pupils and staff involved in fun events throughout the year.

The highlights each year are the Christmas Fayre and the Summer Fayre and together they raise significant amounts of money whilst getting everyone together for much laughter and enjoyment.

The PTA is always keen to recruit new members, and meetings normally take place at the Bear Inn to stimulate thoughts and ideas!

The Governors are very grateful for the support given by the PTA.

Looking Forward

As ever, the leadership team are planning for the 2024/25 School year and some exciting new projects are being put together to further enhance the whole school experience for pupils and parents alike.



In particular, a new priority is to enrich the children's musical experiences in order to help them to develop a life-long love of music. Any offer of musical instruments will be gratefully received.

Sustainability and 'let's go zero' are projects that will be given a much higher profile, giving a real significance to becoming an ECO Warrior. This will involve everyone connected to the school and give an added benefit of reducing our energy costs – hopefully!

Conclusion

The Governors hope that this report will be interesting and informative to parents and carers. If you have any comments or suggestions on how to develop it further in future then please contact me via the School office.

Finally, our thanks must go to everyone at Berkswell School, and especially Mrs. Drew and her amazing team for all their hard work and dedication in

making the school what it is today. Their care, compassion and commitment to everything they do at school is exemplary and is hugely appreciated.

Kevin Millward - Chair of Governors