



## Welcome from the acting Chair

**Hello. Welcome to our first newsletter.**

Since I started out, initially as a parent governor six years ago, I've wanted to make a newsletter, not only to make governors more visible, but to show why what we do matters. But it's never seemed the right time.

I suppose, it's never been the right time because there have been so many changes. In those six years we've become an academy, had three headteachers and three chairs of governors. As a parent, you notice changes in how they affect your child or, sometimes, the feel and mood at the school gates. However, you don't always see or appreciate the way things are changing in the mindsets, systems and data and that is where governors come in.

All these changes, however, pale into insignificance when you compare them to what we've seen over the last 18 months.

I don't think any of us have faced so many changes that were so fundamental, so suddenly. Like all of you, I take my hat off to Mrs Jones and her team for keeping everything going, especially as I know it isn't what she had planned for her first year as headteacher. Her energy, enthusiasm and ambition have kept us going through dark times.

Then, towards the end of the last lockdown, a huge and terribly sad change occurred in governors when our Chair, Anthony Blackwell died. Anthony had overseen the governance transition to academy board and had spent a great deal of time positioning Oxenhope Primary School within the Trust, as well as supporting Mrs Jones with the challenges a new headship brings with it. He will be missed by all, but the vision he and Mrs Jones built, of a school that looks not just at the education but the whole child, must evolve and endure.

As we are a Church of England School, many of you will be people of faith. If you are, you may want to think of Paul's epistle to the Romans Chapter 12, where he encourages us to reflect on our own skills, the contribution we can make using them and then come together with one purpose in God. Those are, perhaps, the passages that will guide governors over the next 12 months as we look at what Covid has left broken, but also the opportunities it has given us, what we have failed to do because of its disruption, but also what progress we (and our children) made. Ultimately, we'll look at how we can continue a vision that we all buy into, where our differences make the whole.

Despite six years of changes, I think most of us agree we're in a much better, stronger place. My job, as chair, is now to support Mrs Jones in putting together a framework that will not only make the school even better, but will also provide the proof that we're making a difference. Proof that I know parents don't need, because we see the difference this school makes every day in the faces of our children. I'm proud to be a part of that and hope you and your children are too. God bless.

**Kevin Campbell-Wright,  
Acting Chair of Governors**

Romans 12:5 "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

## Got a question for governors?

If you would like to meet the Chair, ask any questions or make any comments there will be regular opportunities from September. In the meantime (or at any time) you are welcome to contact governors via the school office and we can arrange a meeting in line with safe working restrictions. Just email any questions or comments marked for the attention of governors' to the office. [office@oxenhope.bradford.sch.uk](mailto:office@oxenhope.bradford.sch.uk).

## Who are your parent governors?

Parent governors are a really important part of the local governing board. While many of the governors are or have been parents with children at the school, it's only these governors that are chosen by parents to provide their perspective to the panel.



### Neil Bird

Hello, my name is Neil Bird, I was elected as a parent governor in December 2020. I am a married father to three daughters, two of which already attend Oxenhope C of E Primary in

Year 2 and Reception. I also have two nephews who do and will attend the school, so Oxenhope is a big part of our family and community.

I work for Microsoft as a Principal Cloud Engineer, where I help organisations deploy new technology and business processes to enable them to become more agile and deliver greater value to their customers. I feel it is important for children to learn and develop Information Technology skills that will allow them to thrive in the digital age, both now and in the future. I'm going to be using this experience during my time as a governor, as the Trust are implementing a new digital strategy, so I'll also be looking at how this impacts school plans.

If you would like to discuss ICT within the school, or any other area of concern, please feel free to reach out to me via the school office.

**Contact:** [office@oxenhope.bradford.sch.uk](mailto:office@oxenhope.bradford.sch.uk)



### Charlotte Gill

I have lived in the village for 12 years and my two daughters currently attend Oxenhope CE Primary.

As part of the governing body, I want to become more involved with the school and make a positive contribution to its continuing growth and success. Being a parent myself I am well placed to understand the parents' perspective but with my background in teaching, I also understand the education system and policies and procedures surrounding this. I want to ensure that the school further develops good relationships with parents and carers and continues to create a positive and nurturing environment in which all children can succeed. Part of this includes helping the governing body understand a parent's viewpoint. If you wish to contact me, please leave a message at the school office or email them and they'll pass the message on.

**CONTACT:** [office@oxenhope.bradford.sch.uk](mailto:office@oxenhope.bradford.sch.uk)



## What exactly are governors?

Oxenhope is part of a multi-academy trust, BDAT.

BDAT is overseen by Trustees, who are legally obliged to make sure that those employed by the Trust carry out their work well.

On a local level, they delegate some of that responsibility to a local governing board (LGB). We oversee the finance for the school, the recruitment and development of the headteacher and develop the local vision and strategy.

The Chair and most of the governors are appointed by the Trust (Trust Governors). However, the headteacher is automatically a part as is one representative of the church. One staff member and two parents are also elected as representatives to the board. All governors have fixed terms after which their position is reviewed.

## Who are the governors?



Kevin Campbell-Wright, Chair



Fiona Tiley, Vice-Chair



Alice Jones, Headteacher



Jane Topham, SEND Governor



Matthew Hill, Safeguarding Governor



Laura Lucas



Robert Whitaker, Church Governor



Charlotte Gill, Parent Governor



Neil Bird, Parent Governor



Oliver Thurlby, Staff Governor

Want to know more?

[www.oxenhopeprimary.org.uk/governors](http://www.oxenhopeprimary.org.uk/governors)

## How is the school measured?

The school is accountable to the Trustees of BDAT and their delegates in the local governing board. They, in turn, are accountable to the government, who monitor the school through **OFSTED** and to the Leeds Diocese of the Church of England, who monitor the school through a separate inspection called Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools, or **SIAMS**.

**OFSTED** look at four different strands:

- Quality of education.
- Behaviour and attitudes.
- Personal development.
- Leadership and management

**SIAMS** look at seven different areas:

- Vision and Leadership
- Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy
- Community and Living Well Together
- Dignity and Respect
- The impact of collective worship
- The effectiveness of religious education

The school Senior Leadership Team (SLT) work with BDAT's Primary School team to put together a plan for meeting the criteria in all of these areas.

Various data is then collected throughout the year presented to governors, who meet in full every two months. They ask questions around the data, policies and plans. This prompts the school to make changes if they are not on track, make improvements so that the standards get better and to meet their legal duties.

At the end of the year, governors look at whether the direction of the school is on track and consider any changes they see as important for the following year. This is presented to the headteacher and BDAT's Primary Team, who then work on developing the priorities for the coming year.

While a lot of this comes down to data, the views people have are just as important. The School has a school council who are involved in feeding back the pupil viewpoint. Staff and parent governors ensure that those perspectives are included on the school boards. Parents can submit compliments, complaints and suggestions to the school at any time and they are always considered.

However, parents can also keep OFSTED abreast of how the school is doing at any time via the Parentview survey. When a school is inspected, these viewpoints are all taken into account.

You can access Parentview at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

## Thanks for all you do!



Governors have been so impressed by the hard work of our staff. So, for National Thank You Day we presented some flowers, and gifts on behalf of everyone to recognise what they do for our children.