

Nurturing curious minds

Annual Governance Report - School Year 2024/5

Thank you

This is our opportunity to stay in touch with the entire school community by sharing our pride as the Board of Governors in **thanking** the teachers, teaching assistants, clerical staff, school cook, and volunteer readers for their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to Longworth Primary School. It is also essential to thank the children for their dedication to being at school, for being kind, curious, and respectful, which makes the school a happy place to be. We visit the school throughout the year and continue to be impressed by the pupils' behaviour in school and on the many school trips the school offers.

As always, and very significantly, we extend our thanks to the parents, carers, guardians and families of our school. You are vital partners in ensuring that children arrive safely, are ready to learn, are supported in their education, and are nurtured at home, so that they can thrive. **Thank you** for your support of the school. **We recognise the importance of attending school to learn; your role in this is vital, and we continue to appreciate your support in achieving good attendance.**

Attendance

In the 2024/25 school year - Overall attendance has increased for the school at 95.5%. Which is excellent news! All year groups are attending school more often this year as compared with last year - thank you to all children, parents and carers for your continued commitment to coming to school every day.

We support the school attendance policy and encourage parents to continue to work with the teachers to maintain children's attendance. The [Department for Education](#) shares that 'being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. [Evidence](#) shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results'. We continue to encourage high attendance across all year groups. This includes from the Reception Year: all attendance from enrollment at school affects the overall schools attendance statistics. [Evidence](#) suggests a correlation between high levels of attendance during the Reception Year and attainment at GCSE level. Please help your child to come to school every day.

Many thanks once again to Jo Houghton-Ross, who plays a significant role in leading [the Friends of Longworth School](#) (FLS), our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), and to Melissa Pedlar, the Treasurer. School discos would not happen without the work of volunteers. We thank FLS for funding the 'leavers hoodies' for year six.

Governing Board

Chair of Governors - Jennifer Jones (Nee Kirman)

Head Teacher - Neil Wilson **Teacher Governor** - Joey Potgieter

Parent Governors - Melissa Gleeson | Lauren Bryan (Vice Chair of Governors)

Co-opted Governors - Ivo Furano | Francesca De Palma

Foundation Governor - Toni Briggs

governors@longworth.oxon.sch.uk

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This year, we have been exceptionally fortunate to receive a significant donation to the school, which will enhance the school grounds. The school will look a little smarter after the summer break, as the railings are refreshed in red paint. You will notice some new picnic tables and updated outdoor equipment. As a small school, we must manage our budget closely, which means we lack caretakers, gardeners, and extra funds for upkeep. Therefore, this money has been a welcome boost. We would like to thank all children and families who have raised money for the **2025 Challenge** coordinated by FLS, which has further boosted funds to be spent on the children's learning environment. We would especially like to thank Tara and Corrine, from Badgers class, for raising a significant amount of money by climbing Yr Wyddfa (Mount Snowdon) earlier in the year.

The [Hinton and Longworth Fund \(HALF\)](#), a local Charity Trust, also provided valuable support to our school. HALF supports various community-based initiatives and makes annual donations to us. We are very grateful for their ongoing assistance. This year, their contributions have enabled us to provide violin lessons for Year 5 and 6, and they also contributed towards the Year 5 and 6 residentials. Their support is a great help, and we extend our thanks to the Trustees and the fundraisers in both villages for their commitment.

As Governors, we have spent time with the children over the last year on school trips, in the classrooms, at lunch, at playtime, at school plays, at school discos, and at the start and end of the school day, as well as during their SATs. We remain impressed by the community spirit shared amongst the pupils in this school; their kindness and behaviour have consistently demonstrated the school's values.

We say farewell this summer to Helen Rafferty, who has supported Fox class this last year, and has been a TA for a number of years across the school, and supported after-school clubs. We thank you for your care of the children and wish you well in your relocation.

Finally, the Board of Governors thanks Mr Wilson for his dedication in overseeing every aspect of the school and teaching, alongside his role as headteacher. It's clear that Mr Wilson has the children's best interests at the heart of all decision-making and leadership of the school.

Jen Jones - Chair of Governors

We are currently recruiting to the Governing Board and are looking for **Foundation and Co-opted Governors**.

We are particularly seeking the skills of people who may have been a governor before and teachers; former, retired or practising. You may know someone who has been a school governor before and is able to use these skills again alongside a great team of volunteers. We are looking for a wide range of volunteers in age, and representing the wealth of diversity in Oxfordshire.

Volunteering is extremely rewarding and can be a useful asset to career development. If you think you might be interested, please email us using our email governors@longworth.oxon.sch.uk for an informal conversation or to express an interest in joining our great team.

Meet the Governors

For many families, and all staff members, you will be familiar with the Governors by seeing our webpage '[Meet the Governors](#)', seeing our pictures in the reception area and meeting some of us at parents' evenings over the last year. As a number of the Governors are parents, you will also see us at the school gates every day. We welcome questions, feedback, and conversations about our role and hope to be a visible presence for the school staff, children and families throughout the year.

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Changes this year

We say goodbye to Dr Rebecca Lisle, our co-opted Governor, this week. We thank Becki for her contribution during her time as a governor. We hope to announce a new governor joining the team in September and will share this update soon.

In the coming year, we will continue to ask staff and parents about your experience at the school, and we look forward to meeting families and carers at parents' evenings over the year. Please use our email address if you wish to speak directly to the governors, or approach a governor if you see one of us at the school.

How do we fulfil our role as Governors?

We meet six times a year as a Full Governing Board and have a view of the school's reporting on pupil performance, attainment, behaviour, and attendance. We support the school by applying respectful challenges to the school reporting systems, to question and ensure that every child is able to achieve their full potential, in a safe and happy environment. We conduct regular visits to the school and hold governing roles for Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs, and Early Years.

We are responsible for understanding the school's expenditures and budgeting, ensuring that this is within budget annually. We have a finance committee that has frequent contact with the head teacher and closely oversees the school's finances. This oversight ensures that the school continues to provide the most effective educational provision within the budget.

Let's celebrate

Reception / Fox Class

At the end of the Reception year, the school assesses where the children are in relation to Early Learning Goals from the EYFS Curriculum; children can be **At Expected** or **Working Towards** (there is no above expected). This year, **69% of children are at a good level of development (GLD)**. The National average for 2023 was 67%. The current provisional National average is estimated to be 67%. To achieve GLD, children must be **Expected** in the three prime areas: Communication and Language; Personal, Social, and Emotional Development; and Physical Development. And **Expected** in Literacy and Maths. **GLD does not apply to pre-school children.**

We are so proud of all the children in the Reception class and all they have achieved. Thank you for all the hard work of the Early Years team in Fox Cubs and Fox Class for your dedication and care of the children.

Governors' Role

The Governing Body is key to the leadership of the school. The Governing Body supports and challenges the Headteacher to continually improve the school and provide the best education for every child. This Annual Governance Statement is one way in which the Governing Body communicates its work and the impact we have had on school improvement to our stakeholders. In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the finances of the school and making sure its money is well spent

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Badger Class

The children in Year 1 are tested on their phonological knowledge at the end of this academic year. We are pleased that 75% of the children achieved this standard, which is broadly in line with the national figure of 80%. Those children who did not pass the check will continue having further support and will have another opportunity to pass the check next year.

Otter Class

We have received the recent SATs results for year 6 and **thank Miss P** for her commitment to the education of children in years 5 & 6. Our small cohort of eight children have all achieved well. All seven children who took the tests achieved the expected standard in reading and maths, with five achieving greater depth in reading and two achieving greater depth in maths. Our overall percentage of 75% is well above the national average (62%). They can build on this wonderful success as they start secondary school in September.

You said - we did

As a team of governors, we've overseen the voices of staff, parents, and pupils and are pleased that we've been able to support the school in addressing the needs and suggestions that've been put forward. We will write to you again in the new term with an update on the school surveys.

Our joint mission

As we look forward to Autumn 2025, another year of exciting endeavours for the children of Longworth Primary School, we bid farewell to the families who leave the school now and wish the children and their families a happy future in their new schools.

Together, we will continue to ensure that every child enjoys their primary school years and is equipped with a broad foundation of knowledge and life skills, so they are ready for the next stage of their education.

We wish you all a happy summer

The Board of Governors at Longworth Primary School

July 2025