

Nurturing curious minds

Annual Governance Report - School Year 2025/26

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 **expressing our thanks to the teachers and colleagues** in pre-school, teaching assistants, support staff, clerical staff, our 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 attending school and for being kind, curious, and respectful, which makes the school a happy place. We visit the school throughout the year and continue to be impressed by the pupils' behaviour both at school and on the many trips the school offers. In this report, we recognise changes and successes in the last year.

In this annual report, I am pleased to share that I will be handing over to Tom Edgeworth as the new Chair of Longworth's Governing Board. It was a pleasure to serve as a governor for five years, and as a Chair for the last 3 and a half years. I'd like to personally thank 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.

The Board of Governors would like to recognise the retirement of **Elaine Walton** our Administration Officer. Elaine has worked at the school for over 23 years and will be missed. We know that many of you will have many memories of Elaine in your time with the school.

We wish you a really happy retirement Elaine.

Thank you for your work at Longworth.



As Governors, we have spent time with the children over the last year on school trips, in classrooms, at lunch, at playtime, at school plays and discos, at the start and end of the school day, and 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.

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) (outgoing Chair) - Tom Edgeworth (Incoming Chair and Parent Governor)

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

Parent Governors - Melissa Gleeson | Becky Butler

Co-opted Governors - Ivo Furano (Vice Chair of Governors) | Francesca De Palma | Varun Footring

We currently have the following vacancies: 1 Parent, 1 Local Authority and 2 Foundation Governors

governors@longworth.oxon.sch.uk

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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 Years 5 and 6, and they have also contributed towards the Years 5 and 6 residentials. Their support is greatly appreciated, and we extend our thanks to the Trustees and the fundraisers in both villages for their commitment.

Finally, the Board of Governors thanks Mr Wilson for his dedication to 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 - Outgoing Chair of Governors

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.

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

Changes this year

We say goodbye to Lauren Bryan (parent Governor and Vice-Chair) and Toni Briggs (co-opted Governor). We thank Lauren and Toni for their contribution during their time as governors.

How do we fulfil our role as Governors?

We meet six times a year as a Full Governing Board and review the school's reports on pupil performance, attainment, behaviour, and attendance. We support the school by applying respectful challenges to its reporting systems to question and ensure that every child can 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 they remain within budget annually. We have a finance committee that

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frequently contacts 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.

In the coming year, we will continue to ask staff and parents about their experiences at the school, and we look forward to meeting families and carers at parents' evenings. 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.

We are currently recruiting to the Governing Board and are looking for a **Parent, a Local Authority and two Foundation Governors**. You may know someone who has served as a school governor before, is looking to build their CV, would like a volunteering role and can use their skills 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.

Let's celebrate

Attendance

In the 2025/26 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.

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, **87% of children are at a good level of development (GLD)**. The National average for 2024 was 68.3%. 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.**

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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.

Badger Class

The children in Year 1 are tested on their phonological knowledge at the end of this academic year. We are pleased that 88% of the children achieved this standard, which is broadly in line with the national figure of 80% (2025). Those children who did not pass the check will continue to receive further support and will have another opportunity to pass it 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 nine children has all achieved well. Seven of the nine children who took the tests achieved the expected standard in reading and six of the nine children who took the maths papers achieved the expected score. Seven of the children achieved expected standard in writing. One child achieved greater depth in reading, writing and maths. Our overall percentage of 45% is below the national average (63%). However, the children can build on this foundation as they start secondary school in September.

You said - We did

As a team of governors, we've heard the voices of staff, parents, and pupils and are pleased that we've been able to support the school in addressing your feedback and suggestions put forward. Please see below a quick summary of what you said and what we are doing.

Behaviour and Discipline

- *What you said:* Several parents expressed a desire for a different approach to behaviour management within the school.
- *What we are doing:* While many children can confidently discuss our core values—*Respecting themselves, Respecting others, and Respecting their school*—they do not always consistently demonstrate them. We are reviewing our Behaviour for Learning and Relationships Policy. The updated policy will include clearer, practical examples of expected positive behaviours, which we will reinforce actively with pupils through targeted assemblies, posters, and classroom displays.

Facilities and Staffing (Pre-School Building)

- *What you said:* Concerns were raised regarding the physical condition of the pre-school building.
- *What we are doing:* During the Easter 2025 holidays, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) surveyed the building and determined it has not yet reached the end of its operational life. Consequently, OCC has earmarked the building for refurbishment rather than replacement. We are awaiting a confirmed refurbishment timetable from OCC and will share these plans with the school community as soon as they are finalized.

Communication with Parents (Child Progress & Interventions)

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- *What you said:* Parents want to ensure they stay closely informed about their child's development, academic attainment, and day-to-day progress.
- *What we are doing:* We will continue to offer our three formal annual updates (two parent-teacher meetings and one end-of-year report). However, we want to remind parents that you can approach class teachers at drop-off/pick-up or email the office to arrange an informal chat at any time. Additionally, we are specifically reviewing how we communicate information about interventions that take place outside the normal curriculum to ensure you are kept fully in the loop.

School Activities

- *What you said:* A parent suggested organizing a school fete to bring the community together and support the school.
- *What we are doing:* We have organized a School Summer Cake Sale and BBQ to raise funds for our school library. The event was held on Thursday 2 July 2026 and it was a fantastic success. Thank you for the suggestion and for everyone who came along and enjoyed a fantastic sunny afternoon in the School!

Sports and Extracurricular Activities

- *What you said:* Several parents have been advocating for more choices of afterschool clubs.
- *What we are doing:* The school is looking at school clubs for the next academic year, using parents' volunteers to reduce costs for families. We have a range of skills to support children with the following themes:
 - Gardening
 - Science
 - Music

More information to follow, but feel free to share ideas or give your availability to support!

Going forward, we want to make sure everyone here has a real voice in how our school is run, but we also know you're incredibly busy. We will keep running these check-ins in the new academic year, but, we will bring them down to just two quick questions a term. Increasing the frequency with a leaner approach will protect your time and still make sure your feedback actually shapes what we do next.

Our joint mission

As we look forward to Autumn 2026, 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.

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We wish you all a happy summer

The Board of Governors at Longworth Primary School - July 2026