



Joint Local Board of Christian Malford, Seagry
and Somersfords' Walter Powell Primary Schools

Annual Governance Statement

July 2018

In our annual governance statement, we outline the governance arrangements of the three schools, together with an assessment of how well the Joint Local Board has done against its objectives for the year. The Joint Local Board has had responsibility for the governance of all three schools since January 2016. It has also had responsibility for the three pre-schools from the date they transferred over to their respective schools (Seagry Pre-school – June 2017, Acorns Pre-school, Christian Malford – September 2017, Walter Powell Pre-school – November 2017).



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Strategic functions

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Christian Malford; Seagry and Somerfords' Walter Powell CofE Primary School's Local Board are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Executive Principal to account for the educational performance of the schools and their pupils; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the schools and making sure that money is well spent.

Governance arrangements	<p>The Local Board of Christian Malford, Seagry and Somerfords' Walter Powell Schools is made up of one DBAT appointed member, four foundation members, four Staff members (including the Executive Principal), three elected Parent members, and three community members. Of the four foundation members two are ex officio (Rev Evelyn Bone and Heather Lee) the other two are nominated by the PCCs.</p> <p>The Local Board meets at least once each short term. We also have three committees to consider different aspects of the schools in detail: a Resources Committee, which focuses on finance and premises matters, a Pay and Staffing Committee and a Curriculum and Standards Committee. The Terms of Reference of each committee can be found on the schools' websites.</p> <p>During the last 12 months the two remaining pre-schools became the responsibility of the Local Board (Acorns Pre-school, Christian Malford – 1 September 2017, Walter Powell Pre-school – 1 November 2017). Seagry pre-school became the responsibility of the Local Board in the previous academic year. A working group operated during the first half of the year to ensure the transfer of governance of the pre-schools to the Local Board proceeded smoothly. This group ceased in early 2018 and replaced with a</p>
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	<p>termly meeting of the pre-school managers, Executive Principal and Chair of the Local Board. The second group is focused more on operational matters and policy review.</p> <p>We currently have two vacancies for Local Board members; one for a community member from the catchment area of Christian Malford School and one Foundation member.</p> <p>On the websites is a list of Local Board members and their roles.</p>
<p>Attendance record of Local Board</p>	<p>The Local Board has an excellent attendance at all meetings. No meetings have been cancelled because they were not 'quorate' (the number of Local Board members needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).</p> <p>Attendance records at Local Board meetings and committee meetings are published on the websites.</p>
<p>The work that we have done on our committees and in the Local Board</p>	<p>Our focus is on meeting the targets set out in the School Development Plan.</p> <p>This academic year we have had OFSTED inspections of both Seagry and Somerfords' Walter Powell Schools. OFSTED confirmed that both schools remained 'GOOD'.</p> <p>The OFSTED report for Seagry says: "Governors are knowledgeable about the school's priorities and make purposeful checks to ensure that planned actions are bringing improvements in pupils' progress."</p> <p>The OFSTED report for Somerfords' Walter Powell School says: "Governors are skilled and experienced. They are knowledgeable about the school's priorities and closely monitor the actions the school is taking to bring about improvement."</p> <p>The Curriculum and Standards Committee has continued to improve its understanding of monitoring the pupils' progress and achievement. Members of the committee have received training on using the Fischer Family Trust data to analyse outcomes and ensure that we are asking relevant questions that both support and challenge our schools. All our schools now have a good understanding and confidence in making judgments about whether pupils are working towards, are at or are exceeding Age-Related Expectations.</p>



The School Improvement Officer from DBAT provides reports three times a year which help to inform our monitoring process to ensure that we are doing the very best for the pupils in our care. We have continued to review a number of policies across all three schools and to align them with the pre-school policies, where appropriate.

The progress and the attainment of the children will be reported in the Local Board Update in the autumn issue.

Our Nominated Local Board member for Safeguarding, Shirley Palmer, and Executive Principal, Mrs. Rowe, produce a termly report to the Local Board about any safeguarding matters and what action has been taken.

The Resources Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises and makes recommendations to the Local Board and the DBAT Main Board about how the school budget should be set. The Resources Committee is also responsible for Health and Safety at each school and engaged Wiltshire Council this year to support the schools with their statutory responsibilities in this respect. They carry out regular checks of the premises with Miss Luter, the schools' business manager. Christian Malford School is awaiting the outcome of an appeal on a Condition Improvement Fund grant application to repair parts of the flat roof. The outcome of the appeal is expected in July.

The Local Board has recommended budgets to the Main DBAT Board for each of the schools for 2018/2019. The financial position of the schools is reviewed regularly by the Resources Committee and reported at every Local Board meeting. The budgets are focused on maximizing resources to enable staff to deliver the best education to all pupils in a difficult funding environment. There is an ongoing focus on marketing to continue to increase pupil numbers across the schools and this is a key driver for the forecasts for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.

The Staffing and Pay Committee is responsible for considering staff performance and how this links to pay rises, staffing structures, and staff well-being. During the year DBAT have carried out a staff survey. The survey provides further information to help the Senior Leadership Team improve the working environment of the staff in all our schools.

DBAT have appointed an Acting Executive Principal, Andrea Kaye, who will take up this post following Jill Rowe's retirement at the end of the academic year. The Local Board were involved in this appointment. The



	<p>Local Board will provide support, with assistance from DBAT, during this transition in leadership.</p>
<p>Church links to the school</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of all Local Board members to uphold the Christian Ethos of the schools. Our foundation members, as Church members, further encourage us to “partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level” as well as to “encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to its pupils”.</p> <p>The values in all three schools are Respect, Kindness, Tolerance, Diligence and Honesty.</p> <p>Our vision statement was updated in the year to:</p> <p>A Christian values-led education that provides opportunities to enjoy ‘life in all its fullness’ through inspirational staff leading personalised learning, and encouraging aspirational pupils who have respect for themselves, others and their environment.</p> <p>All three schools had their SIAMS inspections last year. All three schools were rated ‘Good’.</p> <p>The Senior Leadership team has worked with the Local Board to embed Christian and British values and the recommendations from the SIAMS inspections at all schools.</p> <p>The children have experienced weekly worship and several church experiences overseen by members of the Local Board, Rev Evelyn Bone, Heather Lee, Julia Harle, and Shirley Palmer.</p> <p>Each Local Board meeting begins and ends with prayer.</p> <p>We have had a Foundation Local Board member vacancy all year. This vacancy will be filled by Rayna McDonald from September 2018. Rev Evelyn Bone retires from the Ministry team in July 2018 and consequently is stepping down from the Local Board. Julia Harle will be appointed into the ex-officio vacancy.</p>



Future plans for the Local Board	<p>The Local Board will be working with the Senior Leadership team to refresh our School Development Plan, which will reflect our whole school reviews and include the results of the Parent Feedback Survey carried out in June 2018. The revised School Development Plan will be approved by the Local Board in September 2018 and will drive the focus for 2018/2019.</p> <p>We will continue to look at opportunities for the schools and pre-schools to share best practices and to collaborate.</p> <p>We plan to continue to work with our communities and church so that every individual in our school thrives.</p>
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How you can contact the Local Board

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact our Chair of Local Board, Claire Kennedy, via the school office or by sending an email to localboard@christianmalford.wilts.sch.uk.