



Aston Rowant C+E Primary School
School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU
01844 351671 office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Helen France



15th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Each year, usually in the summer term, the governing board conduct a parent survey to gather your feedback about the school and the work of the governing board. Last year the survey highlighted that you would like to know more about what the governors do and the role of the governing board, so hopefully this letter will help explain a little more. In the coming months each governor will be writing a short newsletter item about their specific role on the board and what they do to help grow the school.

The role of the board of governors in any school is strategic not operational, so we do not get involved in day-to-day decisions. The board will establish a clear vision for the school and then monitor the growth towards delivering that and the school's values. They should also have financial oversight to ensure the school's budget is used as efficiently as possible. The third key function is to hold the school to account for the educational performance, or growth, of the pupils. The board's role is often described as being the 'critical friend' to the school, we aim to support and challenge the school in a constructive way. Everything we do is aimed at ensuring the best growth for each pupil and we also challenge ourselves by asking 'How does that grow the pupils or staff?' with every decision we make.

School governing bodies vary in structure and size depending upon what is needed for each school setting. We currently have ten governors with two vacant positions. In addition to this we are supported by a governance professional from Oxfordshire County Council who acts as our clerk and helps ensure we meet all our statutory requirements. Our board has a wide range of experience and professional backgrounds all of which help us to support the school to ensure it is growing each member of our school community to reach their full potential.

We have seven meetings of the full governing body per year as well as numerous meetings of the various committees (such as Finance and Resources or Teaching and Learning) who then report back to the board. Each governor will also have a topic (or two!) that they are linked to. This means they will carry out monitoring visits linked to each topic to explore how it is delivered in school, celebrate the successes and look for ways to grow further. In addition to their link topic each governor has a school-wide 'area' to focus on, for example finance, safeguarding, SEND or health & safety. These also require monitoring visits which are then reported back to the full board. All these visits help us to see the vision and values in action and monitor their effectiveness and impact.

We look forward to reading your responses to the parent survey later in the year, but in the meantime, you can read the minutes from our meetings on the website as and when they are approved and we would always welcome your thoughts, feedback and views so please don't feel you have to wait until the survey! You can reach us by emailing chair@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk or via the school office.

With best wishes for the year ahead.

Tom Sowerby - Chair of Governors
on behalf of Aston Rowant CofE School Board of Governors.

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY
Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)