



The Bellbird Primary School



“This is a good school.”
Ofsted 2024

ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT

2024/25

The Governors of The Bellbird Primary School are the group of parents, staff and members of our community that decide on school policies, hold the Headteachers to account for the school's performance, and ensure that the school's budget and other resources are best used. Our school was rated as "Good" by OfSTED in July 2024. The Governors meet as a full group each half term, with some additional subcommittee meetings. Every year we provide a report to parents/carers to tell you about the things that Governors have been involved in during the year. This is our report covering the 2024/2025 academic year.



Tim Wreghitt, Chair of Governors

This has been another successful year for The Bellbird School, with excellent SATs results. Last September, we

welcomed our temporary Headteacher, Matt Brough, who very successfully "held the fort" until our new Headteacher, James Puxley could join us as our permanent Headteacher in January 2025.

The Bellbird Primary School is governed by the Governing Body. It is the accountable body for the school and sets the strategic direction together with the Headteacher and the leadership team. We are a small and committed group of people with a range of skills, backgrounds and experiences who are responsible for making decisions about how the work of the school is run. All governing bodies have certain obligations, legal duties, powers and responsibilities.

The Bellbird School Governing Body comprises:

- 7 Community Governors
- 6 Parent Governors
- 1 Local authority Governor
- Headteacher (ex-officio)
- 1 Staff Governor

The Clerk to the Governors is Julie Gledhill of Judicium Education.

GOVERNORS	
Tim Wreghitt	Chair, Local Authority Governor
Duncan Macfarlane	Vice Chair, Parent Governor
James Puxley	Headteacher
Emma Mba	Parent Governor
Lorna Golds	Parent Governor
Cynthia Okpokiri	Parent Governor
Maureen Tsentides (until November 2024)	Parent Governor
Peter Deane	Parent Governor
Sam Goddard	Parent Governor
Daniel Trocme-Latter (from April 2025)	Community Governor
Romit Samantra (from April 2025)	Community Governor
Andy Irons	Community Governor
Jacqui Watkins	Community Governor
John Rimell	Community Governor
Phil O'Dell	Community Governor
Henry Weir	Community Governor
Claire Abraham	Staff Governor

New Governors/Resignations this academic year

- Maureen Tsentides (Parent Governor) resigned in November 2024
- John Rimell (Community Governor) resigned in July 2025
- Lorna Golds (Parent Governor) was elected in February 2025
- Daniel Trocme-Latter (Community Governor) was appointed in April 2025
- Romit Samanta (Community Governor) was appointed in April 2025

The Governing Body meets once each half term and the subcommittees usually meet once (or twice) each term. There are several sub-committees:

- **Resources and Partnership committee** (dealing with delegated finance, personnel, partnership and health and safety issues). Chaired by Phil O'Dell
- **Standards and Curriculum committee** (reviews curriculum and children's progress). Chaired by Jacqui Watkins.
- **Health and Safety Group** (reviews health and safety issues and reports to the Resources and Partnership committee). Chaired by Andy Irons.
- **Head Teacher performance Management committee** (Chaired by Emma Mba).
- **Salaries committee** (Chaired by Phil O'Dell).

Governors take a lead role in monitoring:

SEND	Emma Mba	
Safeguarding	Cynthia Okpokiri	As you will see, our finances are in a good position and the school is almost full to capacity. Feedback from the Local Education Authority Advisors has been very supportive of the educational provision.
Pupil Premium	Tim Wreghitt	
IT	Sam Goddard	
SDP Target 1 Writing	Tim Wreghitt	
SDP Target 2		
Foundation Subject Assessment / Curriculum Assessment	Jacqui Watkins	I would like to pay tribute to the hardworking staff and Governors for their hard work and dedication and thank our departing Governors – Maureen Tsentides and John Rimell, for their dedicated service to the school.
SDP Target 4 Mathematics	Sam Goddard	
Property/Health and Safety	Andy Irons	
Parent Feedback Surveys	Duncan Macfarlane	
Finance	Phil O'Dell	
FABS	Andy Irons	Sharing To facilitate oversight of the various curricula areas, Governors pair with the Teacher Curricula Leads. We are

always particularly keen to discuss resource matters with the teachers and how any additional funds we might manage to afford can be put to best use to help the children.

THANK YOU

The Governors would like to thank all the school staff who have worked tirelessly over the last year to make The Bellbird School an excellent successful environment for learning. Their achievements are plain for all to see, and they and our pupils are a credit to the school. Thank you also to our wonderful parents and carers for your help and support.

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

Mr James Puxley



As we conclude the 2024–2025 academic year, I am pleased to reflect on what has been a purposeful and positive period at The Bellbird Primary School. The progress we have made is the result of a committed and collaborative effort from staff, governors, pupils, and parents. I am deeply grateful for the warmth and support that have characterised my first year as Headteacher. Our key focus this year has been to establish greater consistency in teaching and learning. Colleagues have worked thoughtfully and reflectively, supported by clearer guidance on lesson objectives, key teaching points, and effective classroom adaptations. Monitoring activities indicate a promising impact: pupils are demonstrating increased confidence in articulating their learning and are using resources more independently.

Curriculum development has remained a central priority. Notable initiatives—such as the introduction of the Kapow scheme in several foundation subjects and the implementation of the Hertfordshire Essential Writing Programme in English—have brought renewed momentum and coherence. These changes, shaped through staff collaboration, are designed to ensure progression, engagement, and clarity for all learners. Encouragingly, early outcomes were reflected in significantly improved Year 6 national assessment results.

We have also made meaningful improvements to our school environment and operational systems. Through creative thinking, prudent financial management, and the generous contributions of our termly parent working parties, we have been able to enhance classrooms, shared spaces, and the wider school site. These improvements reflect the pride we collectively share in our learning environment.

A growing sense of community and pupil leadership has been another highlight of the year. The Year 6-led lunchtime clubs have exemplified the confidence, initiative, and care our pupils demonstrate towards one another. It is also encouraging to see our school's reputation continue to grow, with a steady increase in new families choosing to join The Bellbird.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to be strengthening our sports provision with the appointment of Mr Max Pauley, who joins us from Premier Education. Mr Pauley brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, and he has already expressed his ambition to see our trophy cabinet well-stocked by year's end. His leadership will support broader participation in sport, increased competition, and enhanced physical wellbeing across the school.

While there is still more to achieve, we approach the year ahead with confidence and optimism. Priorities for 2025–2026 include the induction of our new Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Komodromos; the appointment of our newly designated Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator and Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Lovewell; and the integration of other new staff into our team. Further curriculum refinement, the introduction of a new assessment system, a whole-school focus on oracy, and continued investment in professional development and leadership capacity will also be key areas of focus.

I would like to thank the Governing Body for their continued support and challenge, and to extend my heartfelt thanks to all staff, pupils, and families. Your care and commitment continue to make The Bellbird Primary School a place where children are valued, supported, and given every opportunity to soar.

FABS

Andy Irons

FABS (Friends At Bellbird School) is the PTA at our school, and is run by a small number of dedicated parent volunteers. For our larger events, we are very grateful for the support we receive from a wider group of parents and the school staff, who generously give their time to man stalls, and some teachers event consent to having wet sponges thrown at them! FABS exists for the dual purpose of running events for the Bellbird pupils and their families to enjoy, and to raise much needed money for the school. This year we have raised over **£9,500** from our events, including the Christmas and Summer Fairs, school discos and quiz nights.



“...donated over £14,500 to fund the purchase of 32 new Chromebooks...”

We have donated over **£14,500** to fund the purchase of 32 new Chromebooks to support the delivery of the IT curriculum, to provide swimming lessons, a whole school pantomime and paid for a re-stock of the school library and new star reader books. We are always looking for new parents who want to get involved, please speak do get in touch on bellbirdpta@gmail.com.

MONEY MATTERS

Mr Phil O'Dell

Governors started work on the 2025/26 budget much earlier than usual, holding a workshop in November 2024 to look at ways to save money prior to the formal budget process starting in the spring.

They took some important steps to try to reduce our reliance on expensive agency staffing to cover staff absences, reviewed our existing contracts for the various clubs we run, and invested

sums from our reserves in making the building's heating system run more efficiently.

Another idea, brought in by our new Headteacher Mr Puxley, was to save costs where possible by having parent working groups undertake practical work on the school building, and we thank those of you who have contributed to these days so far.

Finalising our budget from 1st April was, as always, mainly dependent on the sums we were allocated by the government via the county council. Our core funding went up by only 1.7%, although that disappointment was partly because we had a small, unexpected, and temporary drop in the number of pupils on our roll in October 2024, which our funding for the current year is based on.

Nevertheless, this limited funding increase, together with staff pay awards that were not fully paid for by the government meant that we had to use significant amounts of our limited remaining reserves to balance the budget. We were not the only school in Cambridgeshire needing to do this and were saddened to see a list of similar schools who have had to take more drastic action to balance their budgets, including with effects on their staff.

Happily, though in a sense frustratingly, just after we had set our budget, we heard of two additional sums of government funding we would receive. One was to help with the extra costs of staff pay awards for the current year, and the other was very late confirmation that the PE/Sports Grant funding that we have enjoyed for several years would, after all, continue. These sums should help us replenish our dwindling reserves, which we need to keep at a reasonable level to deal with unexpected issues, such as the problems we have had with our building in recent years.

Looking ahead, we are certain to face another challenging budget process next year, particularly as the government has so many competing pressures for additional spending across public services. We do hope, however, that the timing of school funding announcements can be

improved to help us. The school now spends around £2.6m a year, of which 82% is on staffing, so we need to plan our finances carefully in the best interest of the children.

As always, we are grateful to FABS and our other funders and supporters for all their help.

SAFEGUARDING

Cynthia Okpokiri

There have been new changes at The Bellbird Primary School since January 2025. One of the biggest changes is that we have a new Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – the new headteacher, Mr Puxley. As the DSL, Mr Puxley is in charge of managing the safeguarding needs of children and staff at The Bellbird. The link safeguarding member of the Board of Governors, who is Dr Cynthia Okpokiri, is then tasked with monitoring and supporting the DSL to ensure that all safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and being followed. To do this, she has visited the school several times each term, to check that records are up to date and that practice aligns with statutory requirements. Children have shared they feel safe and happy at the school. There is also a safeguarding role for every adult at The Bellbird. All staff members, including contract and temporary staff, undertake regular safeguarding training so they are up to date and can protect the wellbeing of children and other vulnerable adults at the school. Staff members stay vigilant to identify and respond to any potential safeguarding concerns, including by whistleblowing.

“We encourage parents and guardians to also feel confident to raise any safeguarding concerns with staff and the headteacher”

We encourage parents and guardians to also feel confident to raise any safeguarding concerns with staff and the headteacher. If these channels are not successful, they should feel free to reach out to the Board of Governors.

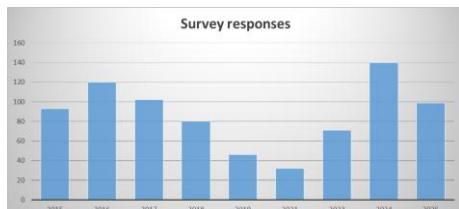
Parents can also access safeguarding information from parenting training options in the parents' tab of the school's website.

All Governors also undertake annual safeguarding training, so they can continue to support the school. They work closely with the Local Authority to stay updated with new policy developments. Following the link safeguarding Governor's oversight, The Governors are satisfied that The Bellbird Primary School is a safe and secure school where children and adults are thriving.

FEEDBACK

Mr Duncan Macfarlane

This year, we used an online survey for parent feedback. There were 99 respondents, which shows good engagement for a non-Ofsted year.



This is great news, as with more engagement we get a better picture of parent/carers' views and can use that information to support decision making.

Overall, >88% of the respondents agreed with the statements, with particularly high scores for "The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year"; "My child feels safe at school"; "My child is happy at this school" and "I would recommend this school to another parent".

SHARING

To facilitate oversight of the various curricula areas, Governors pair with the Teacher Curricula Leads. We are always particularly keen to discuss resource matters with the teachers and how any additional funds we might manage to afford can be put to best use to help the children.

THANK YOU

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HOW TO CONTACT US

Governors are contactable via the School Office and website. Any matters regarding day-to-day issues, including complaints, should be discussed with either your child's Class Teacher or the Headteachers.