

Governors Annual Report 2023-2024

Welcome back to Langrish for this new school year! A special welcome to all our new Squirrels in Year R; thank you for choosing Langrish and helping to make it such a special place.

Governors always start the year by sharing our review of the previous year; once again, it was exceptional in many ways.

School leadership:

Our previous headteacher, Sarah Wright, retired after 9 years and received a huge send off at Easter. After a robust recruitment process we were delighted to appoint our new headteacher Heather Jones, who brings well over a decade of experience as Langrish's Deputy Head. We know you will support her as she takes the school from strength to strength.

Of course, appointing Miss Jones then left us seeking a new Deputy Head, and we ask you to join us in giving a warm Langrish welcome to Billy Christofa, whose skills and experience will also be benefiting Year 5 this year.

School Development:

Recognising that more young people are experiencing mental health challenges every day, our school development plan for last year was focused on supporting Mental Health & Wellbeing. You may be aware from your child/ren that some new curriculum elements were introduced, including learning how to self-regulate emotions and gain a sense of control, as well as celebrating our differences. All this was backed up with staff training, visitors to the school, and engagement with parents and carers.

When governors went into school to monitor how the development plan was going, we attended county-run visits to the school and external trips, and heard from staff about the breathing, movement and distraction techniques they are helping children to learn and the positive, calming influence this had on behaviour in general. We heard from pupils themselves how they were starting to use these skills to describe their feelings, calm themselves at challenging times, distract themselves from negative feelings and find more positive outlets for difficult emotions. Year 6 could talk compellingly about these skills and how they planned to take them on to their next school and apply them successfully to improve their wellbeing.

We also focused on foundation subjects, such as Geography, Music, Art and Languages, ensuring teachers are well trained and supported to engage children, and to teach and assess their progress effectively using a rich and varied curriculum. Visits from Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service were very complimentary about the whole staff team's performance as subject matter experts, providing support for their peers and stimulating events to fire the children's imaginations and enthusiasm. As a school, we even took our first steps into exploring AI and how this might be used positively to enhance teaching and learning at Langrish.

Maths and Science teaching remained the additional focus areas, continuing on from last year. The impact of this focus was demonstrated by excellent SATS results across the school, with almost half of our Year 6 Pupils exceeding the required levels scores in Maths and receiving letters of congratulations for Langrish pupils' success from Government ministers.

Year 6 SATs results in general were another amazing performance, with Langrish scoring above Hampshire and National Average in every category. 30% more of our pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined than the County and National averages; twice as many Langrish pupils achieved a 'Greater Depth score' than the rest of Hampshire and the UK.

School Facilities:

Following significant recent investment in the school's enviable outdoor spaces, we have had a pause on major projects to allow funds to recover. Ongoing maintenance has kept the school looking in great condition.

Governor changes:

During the year we said goodbye to our Local Authority Governor, Samantha Bye and welcomed Fiona Pruden as our new Staff Governor.

The Governing Body has always been well supported by parents who are keen to help Langrish be the best it can, however around half our number must be non-parents from the local community: anyone not directly associated with the school through children or grandchildren is eligible.

We currently have two vacancies for co-opted governors: if you are aware of someone who might have the time and interest to contribute to this very worthwhile role, please do not hesitate to contact James Greenwood on chairofgovernors@langrish.hants.sch.uk – he would be happy to have an informal chat with anyone who wishes to find out a bit more.

Friends of Langrish School (FoLS):

Our sincere thanks to all the FoLS committee members and supporters, who work tirelessly to arrange events and to raise much-needed funds for activities and equipment that the school would not otherwise be able to provide. In particular, FoLS has paid for events to be held at the school as well as transport for school trips. The latter has become increasingly expensive in recent years and this ensures that all children can continue to benefit academically and personally from a wonderful array of cultural and learning opportunities.

FoLS always welcomes volunteers and ideas, so any time you could offer them as a one-off or on an ongoing basis, please do not hesitate to reach out to the team at:

folslangrishschool@gmail.com.

Attendance:

We cannot end this letter without a thank you to all last year's parents who supported their children's attendance, which is proven to be directly linked with their future attainment. As you are all hopefully aware, excellent attendance is vital for ensuring that your children receive all the necessary building blocks for their next level of education. Learning is like a staircase: stairs should be taken one at a time and the more stairs that are missed, the lower their chances of successfully making it to the top.

Attendance has been good at Langrish over the past year, which is deservedly reflected in the children's high attainment and a testament to the dedication of the teachers and learning assistants who support them to succeed. We ask your continued support in avoiding taking your children out of school during term time and prioritising regular and punctual attendance.

If you have any questions or comments about this report, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us through the school office and we will get back to you.

Otherwise, our best wishes to you all for another exciting, enjoyable and excellent year!

Yours,

The Langrish School Governors:

James Greenwood (Chair), Julie Gray (Vice Chair), Heather Jones (Headteacher), Fiona Pruden (Staff Governor) Ray Dudman, Luke Swift, Luke Law, Glenn Hodgson-Hutton and John McMenamin.