

Effective School Governance Award (ESGA)

Verification Report

School name:	Bruche Primary School
School address and postcode:	Seymour Dr, Padgate, Warrington WA1 3TT
School telephone:	01925 815772
School website:	https://www.bruchepprimary.co.uk/website
Head teacher:	Chris Jones
Head teacher's email:	Bruche.head@wpat.uk
ESGA coordinator:	Matt Jones
ESGA coordinator's email:	bruche.chair@wpat.uk
Award verifier:	Ian J Preston
Award adviser (if applicable):	
Date of verification:	6 th January 2022

Commentary on the evidence provided:

This is an ambitious and excellent single form entry school which is part of a 7 school MAT. It wants to be awarded 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

The school entered for this award for several reasons:

- The school is on a journey and are looking for confirmation that they are on the right lines
- They welcome external verification so that they know that they are doing the right things for the children
- They want rigorous feedback so they can improve further
- They welcome recognition and have a number of other awards
- The award has given an opportunity to review governance through a different lens

The Chair is passionate about his role and the school. This was reiterated by the Vice Chair.

He became Chair 6 years ago when the school in special measures and due to his success at Bruche he was asked to Chair another, more challenging school in the MAT.

He encourages 'quiet' Governors to contribute and helps them out in different ways both during meetings and outside.

When he became Chair, he noted that they had the right people around the table, but they weren't necessarily doing the right things. He has worked hard and succeeded in changing this over a period of time. Monitoring visits weren't happening, and this has also changed.

- Matt explained how they addressed each objective, i.e. Initially RAG rating it and then asking, "Have we got the evidence."
- They Created an Action Plan to address the red and amber areas
- They now believe everything is green
- They put in place an 'annual schedule' which drives the GB agenda

Strengths identified during verification:

- There is a culture of excellence that pervades throughout the school.
- The Teaching & Learning environment is excellent with very engaged children.
- Children I spoke to had pride in their school and were very articulate. I asked in a number of classes "What do you like about the school and what don't you like." The answer was the same every time. – Everything and nothing! 😊
- The Chair has created a culture that welcomes questions and challenge and the GB regularly involve themselves with self-evaluation whether via 360° reviews or utilising the NGA 21 Q's document.
- Circa 30 monitoring visits pa
- Staff CPD and its impact is regularly discussed

Impact:

Since going for the ESGA award:-

- New sense of perspective
- There have been lots of changes and governance has improved dramatically
- Relationships between Governors and Staff have much improved
- Staff have a better understanding of what Governors do and their in role in making the school even better
- There is now a 'whole team approach' which has led to improvements for the children.
- ESGA and Covid has led to more 121's with members of staff.

The Governors stated that the biggest improvement had been the focus on governance and in particular the ethos of 'We are all in this together.'

The other Governors also stated that Matt had made a huge difference particularly around GB development and his passion was second to none.

Areas for development:

- Communication with parents. This was reiterated by a Parent Governor
- The Vision Statement should be more visible on the website
- Governor training records are not easy to see. Entry onto a MAT centralised record system is currently being undertaken

- Although there is some evidence of challenge around SLT raising standards etc. more is required and needs to be substantiated in GB minutes
- In some areas minutes need to be more detailed. i.e. Answers shown to pre-asked questions but not the questions themselves
- Review Pupil Premium reporting, particularly online and how accurately it conforms to DfE guidelines

Verifier recommendation:

Bruche Primary School should be awarded the Effective School Governance Award for a period of three years.

Chair of Governors or school ESGA co-coordinator's comments:

Name/Position:-

May we use your comment for website/marketing purposes? **Yes / No** (please delete)