

Chair of Governors Annual Report 2022/23

The board of governors at Gobowen School is made up individuals of a diverse range of backgrounds and age groups, representative of the Gobowen community. Whilst we do not engage in operational aspects of the school, we do get involved in strategic matters which are fully discussed in our termly meetings and committees. We work in partnership with the headteacher and actively support him and the staff. At the end of this academic year, there is a full complement of governors, and their details and specific roles can be found on the school website. Whilst governors are very aware of their statutory responsibilities, they are also very aware that decisions made are in the best interests of the children.

A highly significant development for this academic year was the opening of the nursery class. It is widely reported the importance of early years education and the benefits to children's overall well being and education. This nursery class will benefit Gobowen's children setting them on the pathway to meeting their full potential. Governors support this venture and acknowledge the importance of early years education. The nursery class was officially opened by the mayor of Oswestry, who was a former pupil at the school.

Also, in the autumn term children were able to focus on giving and supporting their local community at the Harvest event. Governors support the school in engaging with the wider community and helping those in need. Governors were pleased to be invited to attend the excellent Christmas productions by the children from all classes, even the nursery played their part.

Governors were invited to several lively debates held by the children and were very impressed with the skills shown. Credit must go to the staff who organised the debates; children were eloquent, confident and very persuasive in their arguments. Governors have been very pleased to see the development of many sporting activities on offer in school. Children have taken part in events and competitions with other schools throughout the year and the head teacher reports that children's behaviour at such events was exemplary. Gobowen School achieved the Gold School Games Mark award for their commitment and engagement in the School Games during 2022/2023. Throughout the year, governors have been on trips organised by the staff. These opportunities are highly valued by governors as they can talk to the children, listen to their views and share their experiences.

Apart from very successful sports days in the summer term, the year ended with 'Gobowen Rocks'. The weather did not dampen the exuberance of the children, staff and guests. Governors congratulate the staff for organising this incredible event, the children for their outstanding performances and hope it will become an annual event!

It was a major achievement for the school to be awarded the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award at the Gold level this academic year and governors are very proud to be part of Gobowen School community.

Sheila Leech

Chair of Governors

July 2023