

Chair of Governors Annual Report 2024/25

The governors are pleased to present this report, showcasing the achievements and developments within our school and governing body. We highlight the unwavering dedication, and hard work of our senior leaders, teachers, non-teaching staff and children. We are also grateful to the parents and carers for their invaluable support. The governors are very appreciative of the exceptional fundraising efforts of FOGS which benefit all the children.

Governors were able to approve a balanced budget for the financial year 2024-25, because we had a carry-over from earlier years plus an in-year surplus in financial year 2023-24. The school is also in a very stable place from a staffing point of view for the coming academic year. We are still in the very fortunate position of being able to employ two floating experienced teachers. The impact of this can be seen in the progress and achievements of children across the school particularly in literacy, spelling and phonics.

Governors had the pleasure of attending several debates by the children in Key Stage 2. The children eloquently debated some quite controversial topics. They showed confidence, enthusiasm and had clearly researched their chosen topics in depth. Christmas productions were a wonderful way to end the autumn term. Children sang and performed with enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment. The governors recognise the tremendous efforts of the teachers in organising these delightful events. Gobowen School choir were busy during this term singing at several events in the community. In the Spring term Gobowen children participated for the first time in the national event of 'Young Voices', joining thousands of children from across the Northwest of England. It was a most memorable event for the children. The weather was very favourable for all successful sports days in the summer term and the year ended with Gobowen Rocks. Governors congratulate the staff for organising these incredible events and the children for their outstanding performances.

A significant highlight of this year must be the adventures of 'Dan the Lego Man'. The long-awaited launch of the weather balloon created great excitement among children and staff. The subsequent media coverage on radio, television and newspapers certainly put Gobowen School 'on the map' for all the right and most positive reasons. The learning opportunities from this project will last for many weeks, if not months.

We continue to work in partnership with the headteacher and actively support him and all 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 all decisions made are in the best interests of the children.

Sheila Leech

Chair of Governors

July 2025