

Entire board of governors resign from failing school

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Seven school governors have resigned en masse from a primary school which is in special measures after an inadequate Ofsted report.

Governors from Monks Eleigh Primary School, including chairman Merle Barbrook, took the decision following a visit from the Department for Education.

Mrs Barbrook, along with Victoria Ball, Martin Bowers, Sally Connolly, Barry Jewitt, Carol Mansell and Alison Russell, said they wanted to step down so an interim board, made up of education professionals, could be appointed to lead the school.

Meanwhile, the school has lost more than half its pupils after being strongly criticised by Ofsted for inadequate achievement, quality of teaching and leadership.

Mrs Barbrook said: "It was not an easy step to take, but the school needs professional input.

"As a governing body, we felt very strongly that we had to act in the best interests of the children at the school."

She said she felt let down and had "the stuffing knocked out of me" when she saw the school had been judged inadequate by Ofsted.

"Our inspection in July identified issues that, as a governing body, we were aware of and were dealing with in complete accordance with advice from Suffolk County Council," she said.

"Personally, I feel it is the speed with which the issues were being dealt with that caused the subsequent problems.

"I have also been disappointed in the speed with which the council has offered support to us as a governing body.

Monks Eleigh is linked to Boxford Primary School but the two-year federation ends in December.

Mrs Barbrook added: "We feel we have been hung out to dry and I feel very sorry for the staff at Boxford.

"I genuinely believed that the collaboration with Boxford was the ideal way forward."