

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of
St Paul's Church of England School
School Year 2017/2018**

Role of the Governing Board

The role of the governing board in a local authority maintained school is set out in education law, namely to 'conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement'. The board also has a legal responsibility to promote pupil wellbeing. It does this by:

Setting Strategic Direction

- Ensuring clarity of vision and ethos
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Making sure statutory duties are met.

Creating Robust Accountability

- Accountability for teaching, achievement, behaviour and safety
- Strengthening and supporting school leadership
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Contributing to school self-evaluation.

Ensuring Financial Probity

- Making sure the school's money is well spent
- Monitoring the use of the Pupil Premium grant and other resources to overcome barriers to learning.

Governance Arrangements

The governing board is made up as follows:

Appointment	Name	Appointed by	First Appointed	Term Length	Term Start	Term End
Foundation Ex-Officio	Ben Marston		07/12/2022	4 years	-	-
Foundation governors	Jade Grime	Church	01/09/2024	4 years	01/09/2024	31/08/2028
	Jason Newsham	PCC	02/02/2022	4 years	02/02/2022	31/08/2026
	Mrs Victoria Walmsley	PCC	24/02/2022	4 years	24/02/2022	31/08/2026
	Claire Warner	-	28/09/2022	4 years	29/09/2022	27/09/2026
Headteachers	Mr Christopher Dugdale	-	-	-	-	-
Local Authority Governors	Jill Kershaw - Chair	Local Authority	01/09/2024	-	01/09/2024	31/08/2028
Parent governors	Victoria Brown		01/06/2022	-	01/06/2022	31/05/2026
	Josh Riley	Parent Body	01/10/2024	-	01/10/2024	30/09/2028
Staff governors	Laura Bradley	-	01/09/2023	-	01/09/2023	31/08/2027

The full Governing Board meets once per term and Governors also meet termly as committees to consider various aspects of the school in detail. At St Paul's CofE School we have the following committees:

Finance Committee

Admissions Committee

Headteacher Appraisal Committee

Full Governing Body Committee

Governors also have links to health and safety and administration, and visit school regularly to meet pupils and staff, in addition to monitoring specific aspects of the curriculum or areas such as SEN and safeguarding.

There are also committees that meet, if required, to consider pupil discipline, staffing appeals and complaints.

A list of Governors, their terms of office and positions of responsibility is published on the school website and can be accessed by clicking here <http://www.stpaulshoddlesden.org.uk/topic/governors>

Governors' Attendance Record

Governing boards make decisions collectively, though they may choose to delegate responsibility to committees, or individuals (including the Headteacher). Attending Governing Board meetings is an essential part of a governor's role and the attendance record for the governors of our school is good. This ensures that all governors receive the necessary information all at the same time and therefore important and informed decisions can be made as and when necessary on all aspects of the school, staff and pupils.

The attendance record for all governors is published on the school website and can be accessed by clicking here <http://www.stpaulshoddlesden.org.uk/governing-body-information/>

Assessment and Impact of the Governing Board during 2024/2025 School Year

During the 2024/2025 school year, the Governing Board has been effective in fulfilling its statutory duties, providing strategic leadership, robust challenge, and clear support to school leaders. Governance has had a positive and measurable impact on school improvement, safeguarding, financial sustainability, and pupil outcomes.

Strategic Leadership and School Improvement

The Governing Board worked closely with senior leaders to review and monitor the School Development Plan (SDP) and Self-Evaluation Framework (SEF). Governors demonstrated strong strategic oversight by:

- Reviewing external adviser reports and validating leaders' self-evaluation as accurate and robust.
- Challenging leaders to evidence impact, particularly around curriculum implementation and outcomes.
- Supporting a strategic priority for 2024/25 focused on embedding and sustaining strong practice, following confirmation of high capacity to improve by the School Adviser

Impact:

Governors' strategic challenge and oversight ensured that school improvement priorities were realistic, evidence-based and focused on sustained excellence rather than unnecessary change.

Educational Standards and Pupil Outcomes

Governors maintained a strong focus on pupil progress and achievement through regular scrutiny of headteacher reports and committee updates. This included:

- Challenging attainment and progress data for all pupils and key groups.
- Monitoring the impact of interventions, including Pupil Premium and SEND provision.
- Reviewing curriculum development, including subject handbooks designed to ensure consistency and progression across all subjects.

Impact:

- All Pupil Premium pupils made expected or better progress, with outcomes of 94% in Reading and 100% in Writing and Mathematics.

- Governors' scrutiny ensured curriculum development was coherent and well-evidenced, supporting pupils' ability to articulate their learning confidently across subjects

Safeguarding and Pupil Wellbeing

Safeguarding remained a core priority for the Governing Board. Governors:

- Received detailed safeguarding reports at every meeting.
- Ensured statutory policies were reviewed and compliant.
- Undertook safeguarding monitoring visits, confirming a strong culture of vigilance and care.
- Challenged leaders on online safety incidents and parental engagement.

Impact:

- Safeguarding was judged to be strong and effective, with issues identified early and managed appropriately.
- Governors' challenge led to strengthened online safety provision, including curriculum updates and enhanced communication with parents.
- Attendance improved significantly, with the school achieving 97% overall attendance and recognition in the top 10% of FFT primary schools nationally

SEND and Inclusion

Governors monitored SEND provision closely, engaging directly with SENDCo updates and external audit findings. They ensured:

- Oversight of increasing SEND demand and EHC plan applications.
- Appropriate use of high-needs funding.
- Monitoring of external provision and pupil wellbeing.

Impact:

- SEND provision was externally verified as exceptional.
- Governors' oversight ensured capacity and resources were aligned to pupil needs, supporting inclusion and positive outcomes for vulnerable learners

Financial Oversight and Resource Management

Through the Resources Committee and full board scrutiny, governors ensured strong financial governance by:

- Approving and monitoring a balanced and sustainable budget.
- Challenging deficit planning and ensuring adequate reserves were maintained.
- Reviewing staffing structures and funding bids to support strategic priorities.
- Ensuring statutory financial returns were submitted with no concerns raised by the Local Authority.

Impact:

- Financial decisions supported educational priorities while maintaining stability.

- The school entered 2024/25 with clear plans to manage pressures responsibly and transparently

Governance Effectiveness and Board Development

The Governing Board demonstrated effective self-management by:

- Managing changes in membership proactively.
- Electing leadership roles transparently and appropriately.
- Reviewing and agreeing the Code of Conduct.
- Ensuring all governors maintained up-to-date training and compliance records via GovernorHub.

Impact:

- Governance remained stable and effective despite changes in membership.
- Clear leadership and succession planning ensured continuity and accountability

Overall Effectiveness

The Governing Board's work during 2024/2025 has had a clear and positive impact on:

- Sustained high educational standards
- Strong safeguarding culture
- Improved attendance and wellbeing
- Effective SEND provision
- Financial sustainability
- Strategic readiness for future inspection

Governors have demonstrated strong alignment with the school's Christian vision, ensuring decisions are rooted in care, responsibility and ambition for all pupils.

Future Plans for Continuous Improvement

The Governing Board recognises that, following the Outstanding judgements across all inspected areas in December 2024, continuous improvement at Hoddlesden St Paul's Church of England Primary School is focused on sustaining excellence, deepening impact and future-proofing leadership and provision rather than addressing weaknesses

The Governing Board has agreed the following strategic priorities for continuous improvement:

1. Sustaining High-Quality Curriculum Implementation

Governors will continue to monitor and support leaders in embedding the school's ambitious and innovative curriculum by:

- Ensuring subject leaders further refine and evaluate curriculum handbooks to maintain consistency and progression.
- Monitoring how pupils make meaningful connections across subjects, particularly in foundation subjects.

- Supporting curriculum enrichment that extends learning beyond the classroom and strengthens pupils' cultural capital.

Governance Focus:

Challenge and validation of curriculum impact through reports, pupil voice, and external feedback.

2. Further Strengthening Early Reading and Phonics

While early reading and phonics were recognised as a strength, governors will ensure continued focus by:

- Monitoring the implementation and impact of the refined phonics programme.
- Ensuring timely identification and support for pupils who need additional help.
- Reviewing reading outcomes and engagement, including the promotion of reading for pleasure.

Governance Focus:

Scrutiny of progress data and intervention impact to ensure no pupil falls behind.

3. Developing Leadership Capacity and Succession Planning

The Governing Board acknowledges the importance of strong leadership at all levels and will:

- Support leadership development for subject leaders and aspiring senior leaders.
- Monitor staff workload and wellbeing to sustain high-quality practice.
- Ensure robust succession planning for both school leadership and governance roles.

Governance Focus:

Ensuring leadership capacity remains strong and sustainable in the long term.

4. Maintaining Exceptional SEND and Inclusion Provision

Given the exemplary SEND provision recognised during inspection, governors will:

- Continue close oversight of SEND provision, funding and outcomes.
- Monitor increasing levels of need to ensure resources and staffing remain appropriate.
- Ensure external audits and reviews continue to inform best practice.

Governance Focus:

Ensuring inclusive practice remains a defining strength of the school

5. Strengthening Community, Diversity and Global Engagement

Building on the school's strong personal development offer, governors will support leaders to:

- Further broaden pupils' experiences of diversity and community engagement.
- Sustain meaningful partnerships locally, nationally and globally.
- Ensure pupils continue to develop a strong sense of social responsibility, rooted in the school's Christian values.

Governance Focus:

Evaluating the impact of enrichment on pupils' personal development and wellbeing.

6. Safeguarding, Attendance and Wellbeing

The Governing Board remains committed to maintaining a strong safeguarding culture by:

- Continuing regular scrutiny of safeguarding records and procedures.
- Monitoring attendance trends and family support strategies.
- Ensuring online safety education and communication with parents remain robust and responsive.

Governance Focus:

Ensuring safeguarding remains effective, proactive and central to school life.

7. Governance Effectiveness and Self-Improvement

The Governing Board will continue to improve its own effectiveness by:

- Undertaking regular self-evaluation against the Governance Handbook.
- Refreshing skills audits and targeting governor training.
- Strengthening succession planning and recruitment to maintain a balanced and skilled board.

Governance Focus:

Ensuring governance remains strategic, informed and impactful.

Conclusion

The Governing Board is confident that these priorities will enable Hoddlesden St Paul's Church of England Primary School to sustain its exceptional standards, respond effectively to future challenges and continue to provide an outstanding education for all pupils. Governors remain committed to working in close partnership with school leaders to ensure continuous improvement is embedded and sustained over time.

Agreed by the Governing Board on: 01/09/2025

Signed by the Chair: V.Walmsley