

## **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/24**

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at the school throughout the course of the 2023/24 academic year.

### **Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance**

The Instrument of Government allows for 14 across different categories.

Current membership: 13

Current vacancies: 1

During the 2022 - 2023 Academic Year, the Governing Body has lost one co-opted governor and two new parent Governors have been elected. Over the course of the 2023 - 2024 Academic Year, the Governing Body has been co - chaired by Rachel Clay and Mark Carter.

The work of the Governing Body has been supported by Emma Presland, as Clerk to Governors.

Chair: Mark Carter and Rachel Clay

Vice Chair: Neil Larkin

Clerk: Emma Presland

Attendance: over the course of the year, Governors at Great Abington Primary School demonstrated an overall positive attendance and engagement with their work. Further information about governor attendance can be found on the school website.

### **[Governor Attendance 2023 - 2024](#)**

### **The Structure of Governance**

As well as meeting as a Full Governing Board, there are also 2 committees, in order to ensure sufficient oversight, support and accountability towards areas of identified priority and statutory coverage.

The School names these committees as:

**Resources Committee** - which mainly deals with:

- Human Resources including Health and Well-Being,
- Finance, including School Development Plan funding, Pupil Premium spend; staff pay
- Health and Safety, including cybersecurity,
- Premises, including capital planning and the lease of an Annex for charities providing pre-school and wrap around care
- School Development Plan

**Learning, Teaching and Standards Committee** – which mainly deals with:

- Curriculum, including enrichment
- Assessment and data,

- SEND and Pupil Premium expenditure plans and impact
- School Development Plan

Both committees and the Full Governing Body have a continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and manage the updates of school policies aligned to the particular areas of responsibility.

In addition to the above, the school also constitutes a Remuneration Committee and Headteacher Performance Management Panel annually. These report to the Resources Committee before the Governing Body receives recommendations.

Committees related to particular purposes such as dealing with complaints or exclusions are constituted as they are required, in line with the determining policy guidance.

A Strategy Group consisting of the Chairs, Vice Chairman and Head Teacher meets fortnightly. Subcommittee Chairs or lead governors in different areas of relevance attend as necessary. A three year Strategy is in place with an annual work plan.

Lead governors are agreed each September at the first GB meeting for the following areas:

- Safeguarding, Pupil Premium, SEND, Looked After Children, Health and Safety, Health and Wellbeing, Remuneration/HT Pay.
- Each School Development Plan priority.
- Governance Improvement Plan.

When required the Governing Body will appoint Associate Members. This will be in order to:

- Support a specific project where specialised knowledge / skills would support the outcomes
- Bridge gaps in the Governing Body skill set as identified through self assessments and reviews (internal and external) - currently we have a finance and GDPR Associate Members.

### **Impact of the work of the Full Governing Body**

Over the course of the last academic year, the Governing Body has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Receiving updates from the Headteacher to inform their work in order to ensure the continued education and safety of all children.
- Overseeing updates with regard to the progress made against the School Development Plan
- Overseeing the service relationship and lease arrangements for the preschool and wrap around organisations using our Annex premises
- Reviewing the condition of the school buildings and estate to enable a new capital expenditure plan to be prepared for 2024/25 and onwards.
- Discussions regarding behaviour across the School and to develop a new behaviour strategy with plans for implementation of a new behaviour policy from September 2024.

- Development of a new communications strategy with part implemented during summer term and other parts to be implemented from September 2024

### **Impact of the work of the Resources Committee**

Over the course of the last academic year, the Resources Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Discussing how best to structure the school's staffing and classes in future years to ensure a continued quality of education and financial sustainability
- Promoting improved attendance for children within school, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Detailed financial work and due diligence in respect of the Annex user organisations and our relationship
- Review of condition of the school building and estate with help of a local surveyor to enable a new capital plan to be prepared in 2024/25.

### **Impact of the work of the Learning Teaching and Standards**

Over the course of the last academic year, the Learning, Teaching and Standards Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Continued oversight of the implementation of the main actions following the Ofsted inspection held in February 2024. Curriculum development, monitoring and early reading and phonics
- Ensuring that the school has adopted an updated curriculum approach towards teaching children about relationships and sex education, aligned to changes in Government expectations.
- Monitoring of the continued embedding of Outdoor Learning in the curriculum.
- Discussions as regards the need for a new Behaviour Policy.

### **Governor Training**

The work of the Governing Body is addressed collectively, so that it is always able to benefit from the different points of view and considerations of governors within meetings. However, the Governing Body has also benefited from training courses on the following topics throughout the course of the year:

- Safeguarding – in order to effectively fulfil our duties in quality assuring the safeguarding arrangements for all children at Great Abington Primary School.
- Monitoring the Curriculum – in order to ensure that our monitoring and questions are informed to gather the most important information from curriculum leaders.

- LA Briefings – in order to remain up to date with latest Local Authority information regarding the approaches towards safe school reopening.
- New Governor training courses for newly/recently appointed governors.
- Governor Hub - all governors are signed up to the CCC service and refer to it for training on a regular basis.

## **Governor Monitoring**

As well as attending meetings, governors are also expected to visit the school to understand more about school life and particular areas of priority (typically linked with different areas of the curriculum, or school development).

Throughout the course of this year, Governors have undertaken particular monitoring in relation to;

- Safeguarding
- PP and SEND
- The Curriculum and its development
- Premises, Health and Safety, Annex.
- Forest School
- Maths and English
- Early years and phonics
- Structuring playtime and lunchtime.

## **Compliance**

The Governing Board has ensured that an effective safeguarding culture is in place. Our work includes:

- One of the Co-Chairs of Governors is lead governor for safeguarding and meets regularly with the Headteacher for updates and inspects the School records and talks to staff about current issues.
- Safeguarding is a standing agenda item on all committees.

The Governing Board has ensured that the relevant policies and procedures are in place by:

- Ensuring that the schedule of School policies maintained by the Clerk to Governors with dates as to when these were last reviewed and next dates for review is kept up to date.
- The Governors annual schedule of meetings lists policies to be reviewed by FGB and its committees.

## **Forward Planning (Broad summary paragraph or three particular highlights)**

This will include:

- Providing continued oversight regarding the impact of expenditure upon children's outcomes

- Supporting the school to adopt the new Early Years Framework successfully, to become embedded as part of broader school life.
- Implementation of new behaviour Strategy for 2024/25.
- Implementation of new Communications strategy for 2024/25.
- Completion of capital expenditure plan in 2024/25 and essential works to school buildings to be carried out.

### Other information and contact

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at:

<https://www.greatabington.school/meet-the-governors/>

This includes information regarding attendance of governors and their Declarations of Interest.

Alternatively, stakeholders are always welcome to engage with the work of the Governing Body by contacting the Co-Chair of Governors via email to [mark.carter@greatabington.school](mailto:mark.carter@greatabington.school) and [rachel.clay@greatabington.school](mailto:rachel.clay@greatabington.school) regarding the work of the Governing Body.

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

MCC