

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024/25

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at the school throughout the course of the 2024/25 academic year.

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government allows for 14 across different categories.

Current membership: 14

Current vacancies: 0

During the 2024 - 2025 Academic Year, one new parent governor and one Local Authority governor were appointed replacing those whose terms had come to an end. Two new Associate Governors were appointed making the total number 3.

Over the course of the 2024 - 2025 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.

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

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; staffing and 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.

When required the Governing Body will appoint Associate Members. This will be 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 Local Authority, Planning and Development 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 2025/26 and onwards.
- Discussions regarding behaviour across the school leading to a new behaviour strategy and implementation of a new behaviour policy from September 2025.
- Development of a new communications strategy with part implemented during summer term and other parts to be implemented during the year 2025/26.

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 2025/26.

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:

- The implementation of the School Development Plan. Priority areas: Safeguarding; Early Reading and Phonics (Ofsted action); Quality Interactions; Developing a Behaviour Curriculum; Foundation subjects (Ofsted Action).
- 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 continued embedding the Outdoor Learning in the curriculum.
- Implementation of 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 benefitted 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.

Great Abington Primary School Training

Training information in this report:

- Training Completed: training completed by current members in 2024 - 2025

Training Completed

Rob Aiano	
Early Reading and Phonics	30 Jan 2025
Health and Safety	6 Nov 2024
Mark Carter	
Termly Governors Briefing	26 Mar 2025
Pupil Premium Information for Schools	3 Mar 2025
Termly Governance Briefing	26 Feb 2025
Termly Governance Briefing	3 Oct 2024
Safeguarding - Angrychildren / emotional regulation	23 Sep 2024
Alan Cooke	
Beyond behaviour policies real-world strategies that work in schools	5 Mar 2025
Health and Safety	6 Nov 2024
Matt Davies	
Analysing and Interpreting Data - Updated	4 Jun 2025
Improving Outcomes for Disadvantaged Pupils -now a webinar	25 Nov 2024
Adrian Granger Brown	
Parent governor/trustee	25 Sep 2024
SALLY PHIPPS	
Annual Governance Conference 2026	19 Jun 2025
Emma Presland	
Annual Clerks Conference 2026	11 Jun 2025
Camclerk sessions	29 Jan 2025
Camclerk sessions	9 Oct 2024
Safeguarding - Angrychildren / emotional regulation	23 Sep 2024

Governor Monitoring

As well as attending meetings, governors are also expected to visit 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 2024/25/26.

- Implementation of new Communications strategy for 2024/25/26.
- Completion of capital expenditure plan in 2024/25/26 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** and **rachel.clay@greatabington.school** regarding the work of the Governing Body.

8 December 2025

MCC