Annual Statement of the Governing Body 2025-26

The Governing Body meets each half term to consider a wide range of issues, supported by the Resources and Finance Committee and the Curriculum and Community Committee. In addition, there are a small number of working groups as needed. Governors are also trustees of the Voluntary Fund. There are a number of Associate members who also support the work of the Governing Body.

We have four core strategic functions which are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of the staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent
- Ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard

Each year the Governing Body considers:

- The vision and ethos of the school
- Standards of attainment and progress of all year groups and diverse groups of children across the school
- Attendance and punctuality
- Staffing structure and appointments
- Finance
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding
- Regular review of the School Development Plan and the School's Self Evaluation
- Behaviour
- Wellbeing
- Appraisal of all staff
- A range of strategic policies

During the 2025-26 school year, the Governors have in particular focused on:

- Meetings with members of staff and subject co-ordinators and school visits when appropriate
- Reviewing the whole school curriculum and checking that the curriculum meets OFSTED expectations and that it 'Reflects Realities' with reference to inclusivity and decolonialisation
- Monitoring arrangements for national assessment for all pupils
- The use of the government grant for the development of PE and its impact on pupils
- Regular checking of safeguarding and child protection procedures in school including e safety
- Contributing to the external Esta review and supporting the implementation of its findings
- The use of the Pupil Premium allowance and its impact on pupils and progress of the GAP project for all vulnerable learners
- Helping to prepare for the OFSTED inspection and meeting with the Lead Inspector during the inspection
- Cyber response plan
- Reviewing DBS requirements for volunteers in school
- Reviewing our performance as a Governing Body and identifying areas where we need to improve

- Maintaining a rolling evaluation of the work of the Governing Body and identifying future actions and developments
- Analysing attainment data to help us understand where the school is doing well and identifying areas where improvements may be made with a particular focus across school on oracy, the teaching of writing, and writing across the curriculum, and on the development of mathematical understanding
- The work of subject co-ordinators and outcomes in DT, computing, science, modern foreign languages, relationships and sex education, and Early Years
- Wellbeing of children and staff
- Consideration of curriculum content in foundation subjects and meeting with curriculum co-ordinators
- Consideration of the provision for children with special needs and disability
- Setting an annual budget within current financial constraints which does not deter from the quality of education offered to the children
- Establishing a Risk Register to mitigate against potential risk to reputation and financial security
- Reviewing governor visibility across the school including governor coffee mornings and attendance at special events
- Visits to identified year groups and attending school events e.g. concerts and fairs
- Supporting the implementation of the OPAL project on outdoor play

Our overall aim is to support and challenge the school in order to achieve the highest quality of education for all its pupils. The above represents a sample of what has been achieved in the 2025-26 school year.

Training for Governors

During 2025-26 the governors have undertaken training in the following areas:

- Understanding your role (for new governors)
- Directors' termly briefings
- Chairs' network meetings
- Safeguarding
- E learning: safeguarding training
- Dealing with school complaints
- OFSTED preparation
- School financial management and revenue funding
- Headteacher appraisal
- Arts education
- SEND
- Primary curriculum
- PPG and cost of living crisis
- Cyber security
- Safer recruitment
- Headteacher appraisal and capability
- Complaints
- Maths curriculum
- School visits

Governors visit school regularly. They are able to meet with staff and children by arrangement. The focus has been on:

- Premises management including buildings work
- Use of facilities
- Safeguarding procedures
- Use of pupil premium grant
- Special educational needs and disability
- Discussion with curriculum co-ordinators and reviewing their action plans
- Exit interviews
- Improving site security
- Classroom visits
- Celebrations, assemblies and concerts
- Year group visits
- Health and Safety
- School council
- Children's behaviour

In 2025-26 governors continued parent/governor coffee mornings. This is an opportunity for parents to meet governors and learn about the work of the Governing Body and how we support the school.

Together with the Senior Leadership Team, we are grateful to those parents who have supported the Voluntary Fund, GASPA, and have acted as class reps and volunteered in school in many ways. The Governing Body is extremely appreciative of the efforts made by all at Grand Avenue to support the children and help each child achieve their best. We have said goodbye to governors and welcomed new members during the year. We are always looking for new members. Our quota for parent governors is full but if you know anyone else who might be interested in becoming a governor, please encourage them to get in touch by contacting the Chair of Governors, the Headteacher or the Clerk to Governors.

Thank you to all governors and associate members for their contributions to the board in the 2025-2026 academic year and all SLT members, staff, parents and children who contributed to the successful OFSTED outcomes.

Governors can be contacted through the school office at:
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Jenny Gresson
Chair of Governors
September 2026