Governing Body of St Andrew's CE VC Junior School

Annual Governance Statement
2024/2025

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of St. Andrew's School Governing Body are:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.**
2. **Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.**
3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

Governance Arrangements

St. Andrew's is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior school in Derbyshire, in the Diocese of Derby. The Governing Body was reconstituted with a new Instrument of Government on 29/06/2015; this Instrument is still in force.

St. Andrew's Governing Body consists of 12 Governors, in the following categories:

3 Parent Governors, elected by the parents of the school
3 Foundation Governors, nominated by the PCC of St Andrew's Church
3 Co-opted Governors, appointed by the Governing Body
1 Headteacher
1 Staff Governor, elected by the staff of the school
1 LA Governor, appointed by the Local Authority (Derbyshire County Council)

Of these members each year a Chair and a Vice Chair are elected in July ready for the following academic year.

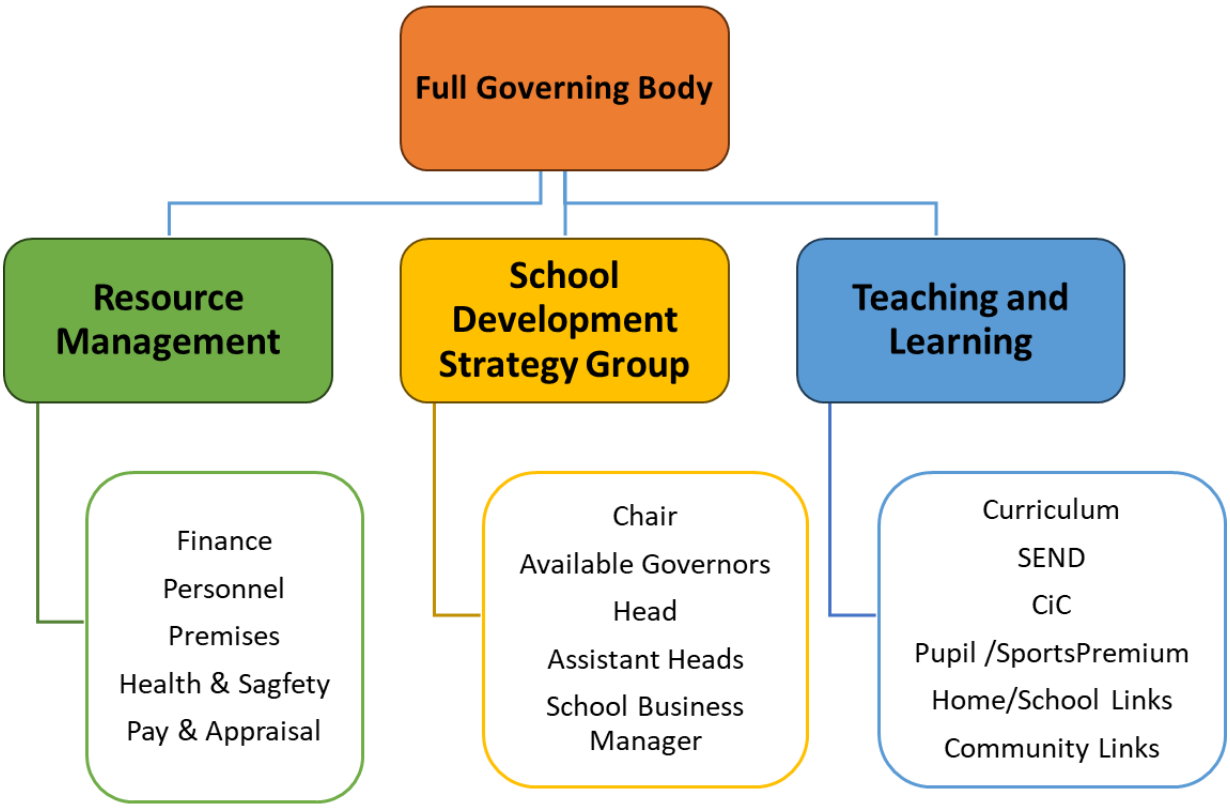
Our Clerk is Mrs Elizabeth Powell, who is also the School Business Manager. We liaise with other school staff as well, particularly the Assistant Headteachers and members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The Governing Body has a programme of meetings throughout the school year with the Full Governing Board meeting twice per term (six times a year). The Chair and Headteacher also meet regularly. The schedule of meetings for the current year can be found on the school website. Approved minutes are readily available for viewing within the school office.

The Governing Body monitors the school improvement plan using a programme of visits to school (known as 'learning walks') to enable us to see specific aspects of school life for ourselves. Each Governor has two or more subjects that they are linked to, and will carry out learning walks for those subjects at least once a year. In addition, some governors are linked to different strategic areas such as safeguarding, financial monitoring and wellbeing. The overall monitoring work is held in a Governor's monitoring plan.

The Governing Body uses a flat structure without sub-committees, and also takes part in the annual strategic planning process. The business of the Governing Body can be divided into resource

management and teaching and learning. The diagram below illustrates to work of the Governing Body.



For further information and terms of reference for the Governing Body please see the document on the website or available from the office. The membership of the Governing Body for 2024/2025 was as follows:

Governor	**Category**	**Term of office expiry/end date**
Mr Bruce Levitan (Chair)	Foundation Governor	16/02/2026
Mrs Amanda Cornwall	Headteacher	n/a
Mr Joel Singleton	Foundation Governor	18/09/2024
Mrs Judith Shaw	Foundation Governor	31/08/2025
Mr Jon Hinett	Staff Governor	03/07/2027
Mr Tim Ibbotson	Co-opted Governor	03/05/2026
Mr T Woods	Co-opted Governor	20/01/2029
Ms L Hudson	Co-opted Governor	17/03/2029
Mr Phil Thomasson	Parent Governor	13/10/2026
Mrs Melanie Flynn	Parent Governor	22/06/2025
Mrs Kirsten Gayle	Parent Governor	29/01/2028
Mrs Sarah Neill	LA Governor	03/07/2027
Vacancy	Foundation	
Vacancy	Parent	From 23/06/2025

We have one governor whose term has ended this year, Joel Singleton 18/09/2024, we thank Joel for his input over the last 12 months. We would also like to thank Melanie Flynn, our Parent Governor who has been with the governing body a couple of years and made valuable input into the board, especially the sustainable future of the school. We now have one vacancy for a Foundation Governor and one vacancy for a Parent Governor.

During the year we welcomed two new Co-opted governors – Mr Tim Woods, who is a familiar face on the governing board and it is great to have Tim back, we also welcomed Ms Lucy Hudson, who will be a great asset to the board. We will, as a school and governing board support them in any way possible.

Attendance record for 2024/2025

A record is kept by the clerk to the Governing Body of governors' attendance at meetings. Meetings need to be 'quorate' to ensure that decisions can be made. Shaded rows in the table below indicate governors who resigned during the year.

Governor	FGB meetings
Mr B Levitan	6/6
Mrs A Cornwall	6/6
Mr J Hinett	4/6
Mrs J Shaw	5/6
Mr T Ibbotson	2/6
Mr P Thomasson	3/6
Mrs M Flynn	5/5
Mrs S Neill	4/6
Mrs K Gayle	5/6
Mr T Woods	3/4
Ms L Hudson	3/3
Mrs E Powell (Clerk)	6/6

This year's work

Overview

The demographics in High Peak (and elsewhere) has falling numbers due to a dip in the birth rate from around 2019 onwards. This means the school has to manage its finances very carefully as falling rolls signify reduced income. So far, due to the diligent management by the school's head teacher and business manager, the school's budget has remained healthy, and this should be the case for the next two years at least.

Our support and understanding of modern mental health issues through the MACAWS and other provision (e.g. Forest School) is second to none and has been highly praised by both SIAMS and Ofsted inspectors in the past. We have, at last, developed an outdoor MACAWS facility which the children were involved in designing. This was funded through crowdfunding and other fundraising activities, and we are tremendously grateful to everybody who supported us. The facility opened in June 2025 and was featured as a front-page article in the Glossop Chronicle. The "Chron" also featured the work of our Forest School when the children planted some fruit trees in Roughfields (trees kindly donated by the Tree Council).

In the past I have reported on the building issues we have had, and unfortunately, we continue to have a number of issues with the buildings, part of the inheritance that goes with older estate. Some

things have been attended to – for example re-point works around the old main building and some ceiling and wall replastering – but there remain significant issues, especially in the old building, which we continue to work with the LA to resolve.

Teaching and Learning

The Governors continue to fully support the work of Mrs Cornwall, the SLT and teachers in their core focus of pupil attainment throughout the year groups.

Governors receive reports at full governor meetings. Mrs Cornwall provides a comprehensive overview and receives appropriate challenge from the Governors. We also maintain a governor monitoring programme (noted above) that is linked to the school improvement plan, and governors report to the board for their specific areas of responsibility.

We continue to monitor academic progress with the headteacher and we use data analysis to help us understand both the positive progress and areas that require development, including quality of learning and outcomes. The school has used a variety of strategies to help inform us about what issues we need to address (e.g. the use of National Foundation for Educational Research tests) and how to support the children (e.g. carrying out mock SATs tests to familiarise the year 6 pupils with what to expect, and tailoring the examination environment to support pupils with special needs). Governors robustly challenge and support to help ensure positive progress is made throughout the year groups.

We review the spending of Pupil Premium and Sports Premium monies to ensure targeted benefits come from its spending, and that outcomes are tracked and reported. After our long-standing PE teacher, Mrs Trigg, retired, Miss Williams has taken on the role and she provides a wide-ranging, fully-inclusive, challenging and enjoyable curriculum of sports and physical fitness activities including monthly sports challenges, after school activities and inter-school challenges. We believe that PE stands for Participation and Enjoyment.

MACAWS and Forest School have been mentioned above.

The school is visited regularly by the LA School Improvement Partner, and recently we also had a visit from Catherine Harris (the LA's Senior Adviser for School Improvement). Both have noted how well the school is run, and the excellence of the school ethos.

At the time of writing the SATS results from this year have not yet been released (release date is in July).

Resource Management

The Governing Body is responsible for the financial management of the school, though much is delegated to the Headteacher and the School Business Manager.

We receive regular reports and updates on the budget and meet regularly with our LA Patch Officer to review the budget (with a Governor in attendance when possible). We monitor the Pupil Premium and Sports Premium budgets and spending plan, and the impact of this funding on pupil outcomes. We have been looking at SEND funding and allocation as well and this work will continue into the next academic year, particularly with the continuing high number of pupils with SEND (our school has a high proportion of PP/SEN pupils, above the national average).

We oversee staff pay and work within agreed and set budgets. We have a responsibility to oversee the staff performance management review delegated to the Headteacher but are, in conjunction with the school's LA Link Manager directly involved in the Headteacher's performance review. This gives Governors the opportunity to challenge and measure the progress made in school.

We receive regular reports on our buildings and monitor repairs and maintenance. Major works revolving around the main building which we had hoped would start during summer 2020 have been deferred yet again by the LA – four years running now. We were hoping they would take place during summer this year, but this now seems unlikely.

Church School

We are proud to be a church school and believe that our ethos, vision and values, and distinctiveness as a church school offer a lot to all our pupils. The Foundation Governors have a specific brief to uphold the ethos of the school as a church school, and, when circumstances allow, take an active role in assemblies and other school activities – for example one Foundation Governor has presented a "puppet collective worship", and again this year we have been hosted by St. Andrew's Church for Easter and Christmas activities. All governors who are able to, regularly attend Friday lunchtime "top table", which is another feature of the school's providing a wide and rich environment for the children.

We have a total of 70 Collective Worship leaders across Y4 – Y6. This is amazing and the children do a fantastic job on a rotational timetable. They arrange the collective worship table and the readings/prayers.

Officers in the Diocese have visited the school recently and they have noted how impressed they are with the ethos of the school. Mrs Cornwall has been asked to speak about this at forthcoming Diocesan events.

Governors

Changes to the Governing Board have been noted above, and for a short period we had a full complement, but currently we have a Foundation Governor vacancy that is proving very hard to fill. If you have an interest in supporting your school and feel you could make a positive contribution, please contact school on 01457 852328.

Strategic Planning for the future

The School Improvement Plan has been updated and revised to further develop the curriculum and focus on areas for improvement, which this year included Maths. Continuing to close the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and others also remains a key target.

The governor's monitoring plan that was created last year was updated for the current year and now allows governors to ensure their focus aligns with the school's priorities. Looking to improve on this, we have also created a school three-year strategy – this sits above the SIP as a mechanism for highlighting areas that we wish to develop over time, and which the SIP will take note of as it is updated each year.

Alongside this, we regularly review Governor-subject links (as new Governors are appointed) to provide an even spread and to emphasise the importance of this part of the Governor role. We also carry out an annual skills audit to show whether there are any areas that we need to focus on in terms of Governor CPD (all governors are encouraged to undertake training).

We have an exceptional Headteacher and staff who continue to demonstrate extraordinary commitment, and maintain excellent morale throughout. This includes TAs and support staff as well as teachers. This has had a positive impact on the children, who feel happy, cared for and thrive on good teaching.

No school should rest upon its laurels, and we recognise that there are areas for improvement. We will to strive to be better, and I have every confidence that our school will continue to go from strength to strength.

How to contact your Governing Body

Information about the School's Governing Body is available on the Governors' page of the school's website. We can be contacted by email or through the school office.

Bruce Levitan
Chair of Governors, June 2025