Governing Body of St Andrew's CE VC Junior School

Annual Governance Statement
2022/2023

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)

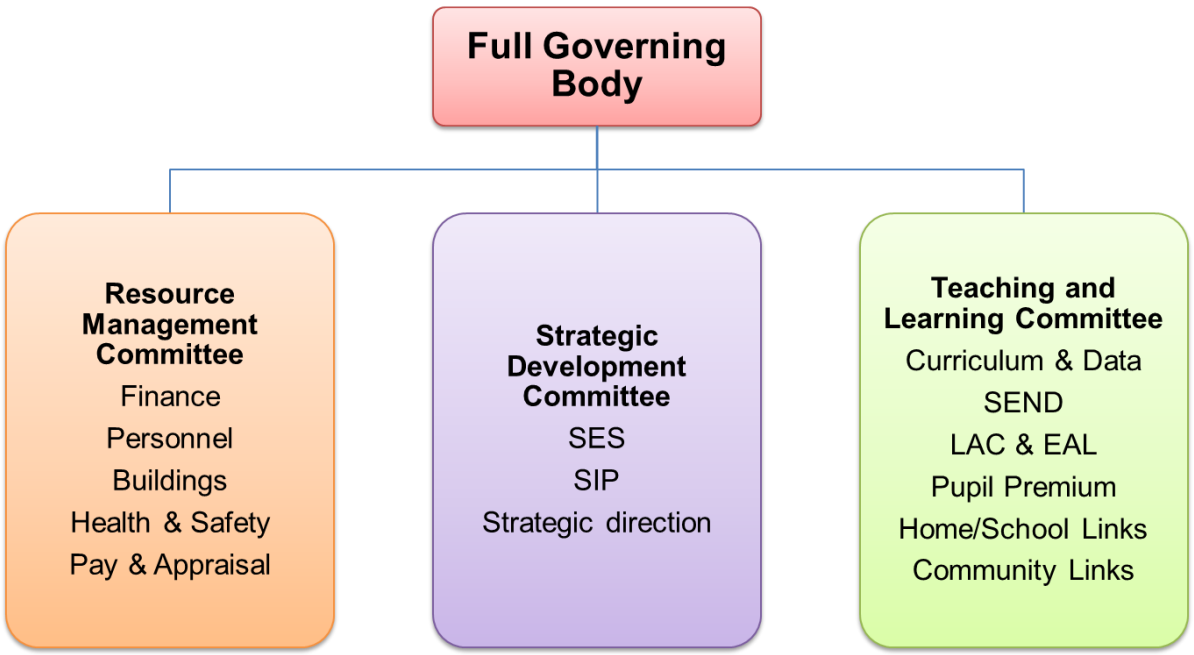
Of these members each year a Chair and a Vice Chair are elected in July ready for the following academic year.

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, and a committee structure that focuses on specific areas of governance. The Chair and Headteacher also meet regularly. The full Governing Body meets once every term. The Committees meet three times a year each, in alternate half terms. 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.

We also have 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.

There are three committees of the Governing Body structured as follows:



For further information and terms of reference for the Governing Body and the committees please see the document on the website or available from the office.

The membership of the Governing Body for 2022/2023 was as follows:

Governor	Category	Committee	Term of office expiry/end date
Mr Bruce Levitan (Chair)	Foundation Governor	Resource	16/02/2026
Mr Tim Woods (outgoing Vice Chair)	Parent Governor	Resource	09/02/2023
Mrs Amanda Cornwall	Headteacher	Both	n/a
Mrs Claire Smith	Staff Governor	Teaching	28/06/2023
Mrs Liz Strek	LA Governor	Teaching	17/03/2023
Mr Mic Taylor	Co-opted Governor	Resource	22/06/2024
Mr Daniel Lythgoe	Parent Governor	Resource	21/07/2023
Mrs Judith Shaw	Foundation Governor	Teaching	01/09/2025
Mrs Rachael Gregson	Foundation Governor	Resource	23/01/2023
Mr Tim Ibbotson	Co-opted Governor	Resource	03/05/2026
Mrs Halina Billingham (new Vice Chair)	Co-opted Governor	Teaching	03/05/2026
Mr Phil Thomasson	Parent Governor	Teaching	13/10/2026

We have four governors whose term has ended this year, Rachael Gregson 23/01/2023, Tim Woods 09/02/2023 and Liz Strek 17/03/2023. Also, Zuzana Powley joined our teaching team so according to governance rules resigned as Governor on 31/08/2022 (she is not included in the tables as this was at the beginning of the academic year), we thank all of them for their dedication, support and invaluable input over the years that they have been Governors. We wish them all the very best for the future. Also this thanks goes to Dan Lythgoe who has tendered his resignation at the last governors meeting of the year.

During the year we welcomed one new parent governor - Mr Phil Thomasson.

More recently we have appointed a new Parent governor – Mrs Melanie Flynn and a new LA Governor Mrs Sarah Neill who observed the last full governing body meeting of the year.

We will, as a school and governing board support them in any way possible.

Attendance record for 2022/2023

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	Committee meetings
Mr B Levitan	4/4	5/5
Mrs A Cornwall	4/4	6/6
Mr T Woods	1/1	0/0
Mrs C Smith	2/3	2/3
Mrs L Strek	0/2	2/3
Mr M Taylor	3/4	1/3
Mr D Lythgoe	2/4	2/3
Mrs J Shaw	4/4	3/3
Mrs R Gregson	1/1	0/1
Mr T Ibbotson	3/4	3/3
Mrs H Billingham	3/4	2/3
Mr P Thomasson	3/4	1/2

This year's work

The Covid-19 pandemic is officially over, but it still casts its shadow on education. For example, this year's Year 3 intake will have missed up to two years of schooling at infant level, so are still having to play catch-up as they enter junior school. Our splendid staff have done their utmost to help children reduce the gaps in learning that have resulted from Covid, which ripples across all year groups and thus has a significant impact on teaching strategies. One of the ways we have tackled this is though Tutor Led Funding, which was used on a tutor for three days a week, teaching children from Year 6.

We started the school year with 227 students – the highest for some time – and this stayed at over 220 throughout the year.

This year we have faced some new challenges, especially during the Spring term. Firstly, there has been a combination of winter illnesses affecting attendance of both staff and pupils, which required a high degree of flexibility and imagination on occasion! In spite of this, the school's absence levels remain below the national average[1]. Secondly, another disruptive influence has been strike action under the NEU, when certain classes had to close (according to which staff were on strike). As a governing board we understand the position of teaching staff who have voted to strike. Finally, the withdrawal of future GRIP funding has initially impacted on support as its replacement, Inclusion Panel funding is only awarded on a 12-week basis before having to reapply, causing difficulties for staff contracts funded in this way – fortunately this was eventually resolved by changing the funding term to back to 12 months. We applaud Mrs Cornwall for managing all these situations efficiently and effectively.

[1] Source: https://www.find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk/school/112869/st-andrew's-cofe-junior-school/absence-and-pupil-population

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 and Teaching and Learning committee meetings to help monitor progress and implementation. Mrs Cornwall provides a comprehensive overview at Full Governors meetings and receives appropriate challenge from the Governors. This year we reviewed and updated the format of the headteacher's report, which now includes a "one-page view" of key school data as well the text of her report.

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. Governors robustly challenge and support to help ensure positive progress is made throughout the year groups, mainly within the Teaching and Learning Committee.

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. The Sports Premium funding is used mostly to pay for our PE teacher, Mrs Trigg, and she provides a wide-ranging, fully-inclusive, challenging and enjoyable curriculum of sports and physical fitness activities including after school clubs such as dance and gymnastics.

We are very proud of our Forest School provision via Mrs Clare Thompson, and children have been involved in tree planting working with the Tree Council, and rewilding, working with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Recently a number of fruit trees were planted, including espaliers along the back yard fence.

SATS

As we noted in our last report, SATs had been cancelled due to the pandemic, but were resumed for 2021/22 – however the government has not published the results for 2021/22 as "Pupils included in the 2021/22 school, college and multi-academy trust (MAT) performance measures will have had uneven disruption to their learning."[2] As of writing the results from this year (2022/23) have not yet been released (release date is 4th 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 LEA 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, around 5% above the national average[3]).

Governors have been involved with interviewing and appointing both teaching and support staff. 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

[2] Source: https://www.find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk/school/112869/st-andrew's-cofe-junior-school

[3] Source: https://www.find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk/school/112869/st-andrew's-cofe-junior-school/absence-and-pupil-population

the school's LEA Link Manager directly involved in the Headteacher's performance review. This gives Governors the opportunity to challenge and measure the progress made in school.

The Resource Management Committee receives regular reports on our buildings and monitors repairs and maintenance. Major works revolving around the main building which we had hoped would start during summer 2020 have been deferred and we reported last time that they would take place in 2023 – however the LA has again delayed this and we do not have a date for the work to commence.

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 supported St. Andrew's Church's Easter week school sessions. 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.

Other work

Our children have continued to do their community focussed activities, and they created a display for the Hadfield Road frontage focussing on King Charles' coronation. Every year they take part in the mental health awareness "Hello Yellow" day, which also raises funds for mental health charity. They also took part in the local food bank, Bellies Not Bins, based at Carmel Church. High Peak's MP, Robert Largan, visited the school in June and was highly impressed by the enthusiasm, confidence and articulateness of the children.

Governors

Changes to the Governing Board have been noted above, and for a short period we had a full complement, but then faced a reduction by three due to in-year resignations. Luckily we have now filled the Parent Governor and LA Governor vacancies (they will be joining us in the new academic year), but still have a Foundation governor vacancy. If you have an interest in supporting your Junior 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 new curriculum. It continues to be based on Global Citizenship Goals and Christian Values. It also contains specific targets aimed at addressing the gaps that have arisen as a result of Coronavirus.

Our plans for next year include continuing to focus on improving outcomes for all pupils, particularly focusing on continuing to close the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and others, as well as the gaps created by successive lockdowns. We also will continue to tighten up how our work ties in with the School Improvement Plan. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead for all of the St. Andrew's community. We are due for a SIAMS inspection in 2023/24, https://www.derbydbe.org/siams/ and look forward to having input from Diocese as the last inspection was in 2016. SIAMS' focus is on how Christian values are reflected across all aspects of school life, and we are very proud that they are fully embedded across the school.

We continue endeavour to make the work of the Governing Body sustainable and targeted in order to fulfil our strategic functions, and to have all Governors involved and active in our work. 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 have demonstrated extraordinary commitment during the pandemic and beyond, and have maintained 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.

Our support and understanding of modern mental health issues through the MACAWS and other provision (e.g. Forest School) is second to none and was highly praised by our MP when he visited, as previously noted. We hope to develop an outdoor MACAWS facility which the children are involved in designing. We will apply for grant funding to support this.

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, July 2023