



ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/26

The Core Functions of the Governing Body

- ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined;
- ensuring that the Headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school; and
- ensuring the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at the school throughout the course of the 2025/26 academic year.

'A cord of three strands is not easily broken.' Ecclesiastes 4:12

Vision Statement for Folksworth Church of England Primary School

We believe that all people are unique and of equal worth. As part of God's family everyone is nurtured, valued and respected. We provide a safe community where we give everyone the fullest opportunity to be the very best they can be.

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government allows for 10 governors across different categories.

Current membership: 9

Current vacancies: 1

We currently have one vacancy for a staff member. At the end of July 2025 one co-opted governor resigned and we gained a new co-opted governor in October 2025.

Chair: Clare Kirk

Vice-Chairs: Roy Duncan (Resources), Amy Pickstone (Standards and Ethos) and Josh Walters (Safeguarding)

Clerk: Janet Harris

Attendance: Attendance at meetings is good. Most of our meetings are on Teams with 3 meetings being in person at the school. All governors engage well with the board's work.

See Attendance Report on school website

The Structure of Governance

The Board uses the circle model and will have met as a Full Board meeting 8 times this year. Within the board structure there are 3 vice chairs taking a lead on areas of the Resources committee, Standards and Ethos committee and Safeguarding. The full board has oversight,

support and accountability toward priorities in the school development plan as well as statutory duties. The board has continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and updates of school policies.

At each full governing board meeting, time is allocated to matters concerning a Resources committee as well as a Standards and Ethos committee. The Resources agenda item includes scrutinising the monthly finance report, contract management, health and safety, premises and staffing. The Standards and Ethos agenda item includes studying pupil outcomes and progress, pupil premium strategy and Christian distinctiveness.

In addition to the above, the school also constitutes a Pay Panel when necessary and a Headteacher Appraisal Review panel which meets 3 times a year. Any complaints or exclusion panels are convened as needed.

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;

- Monitoring the school budget to ensure good value for money and careful monitoring of expenditure to keep within budget and funding allocation. Looking at benchmarking data to identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Approving policies and procedures such as GDPR and Behaviour
- Ensuring safeguarding duties are carried out effectively
- Scrutinising data on pupil attainment and progress
- Ensuring the school meets the national School Financial Value Standards
- Ensuring processes are in place for the health and safety of pupil, staff and visitors.
- Approving salary increases in line with national guidelines
- Promoting pupil and staff well being

The main challenges faced and addressed by the Board this year have been

- Balancing the school budget
- Exploring model structures for the school's future, looking at various options for a small Church of England Primary School in Ely Diocese

Governor Training

Governors work collectively, so we are always able to benefit from our different points of view and considerations within meetings. However, the Governing Body has also benefitted from training courses on the following topics throughout the course of the year;

- Diocese training on SIAMS, Spirituality and strengthening school/church links
- Cyber Security
- GDPR
- Safeguarding
- Online Safety

- Prevent
- Equality and Diversity

See also Training record for the last 3 terms

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:

- The SFVS process and evidence
- Safeguarding
- Maths
- Health and Safety
- Writing
- Science
- Outdoor Learning
- Creating a sustainable school environment
- EYFS

Compliance

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

- Monitoring Safeguarding as part of every monitoring visit to the school and within each meeting agenda
- Ensuring that training is completed and up to date

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

- Complying with government 'statutory policies and procedures
- Updating policies as necessary
- Adhering to an agreed cycle of review of school policies and procedures

Forward Planning

The governing board looks forward to continuing to make an impact in the forthcoming academic year. This will include

- Governor recruitment and succession planning

- Continuing to monitor the Climate Action Plan

'Inclusion for All Framework'

Inclusion is the removal of barriers and ensuring a culture of belonging for all pupils. Within the 'Inclusion for all Framework' we will create a sense of belonging and promote well-being and attendance through safeguarding, curriculum, special education needs and disabilities support, behaviour and transition.

Our vision statement is at the heart of decision making:

We believe that all people are unique and of equal worth. As part of God's family everyone is nurtured, valued and respected. We provide a safe community where we give everyone the fullest opportunity to be the very best they can be

The governing board ensures that the school provides equality for opportunity for all learners. The school creates an environment where every pupil can thrive and access the curriculum. The board uses data on attendance, behaviour and attainment to identify gaps and monitor the effectiveness of inclusive policies. The board ensures that the budget supports SEND provision, including staff training and resources.

Other information and Contact

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

Folksworth.eschools.co.uk

This includes information outlining the governing board's role and responsibilities, as well as reports on governor attendance and declarations of interest.