



ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023 24

Folksworth Church of England Primary School

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This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at the school throughout the course of the 2023/24 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:

Headteacher: Michelle Norbury

3 Foundation Governors: Clare Kirk (Chair), Rev Gillian Jessop, Amy Pickstone

3 Parent Governors: Claire Armstrong (Vice Chair), Debbie Quinn

1 Local Authority Governor: Roy Duncan

1 Co-opt Governor: Katie Hart

Vacancies:

1 Parent Governor

1 Staff Governor

During the course of this academic year the governing board have endeavoured to recruit a parent and staff governor. This recruitment drive is ongoing and will continue next academic year. Four governors’ term will end next academic year and so recruitment will start for those seats at the beginning of next term.

Chair: Clare Kirk

Vice Chair: Claire Armstrong

Clerk: Janet Harris

Attendance: Over the course of the year, our governors demonstrate an overall positive attendance and engagement with their work.

The Structure of Governance

The Board uses the circle model and has met as a Full Board 8 times this year. Within the board structure there are 2 officers taking a lead on areas of a Resources committee and a Standards and Ethos committee. The full board has oversight, support and accountability towards priorities in the school development plan as well as statutory duties. The board has continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and manages the updates of school policies.

In addition to the above, the school also constitutes a Pay Committee annually and Headteacher Performance Management Panel which meets 3 times a year.

Impact of the work of the Full Governing Board

Over the course of the last academic year, the Governing Board has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Approving key areas for school improvement following recommendations from the HT.
- Monitoring the school budget to ensure good value for money.
- Ensuring the school meets the national School Financial Value Standard.
- Ensuring processes are in place for the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors.
- Actively supporting the school's recruitment process for newly appointed staff
- Approving staff salary increases in line with national guidelines.
- Approving policies and procedures including the Data Protection Policy and Behaviours Policy
- Ensuring best practice is shared and that the school is being benchmarked against other schools, in order to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

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

- Recruiting new governors.
- Balancing the school budget.
- Preparation for the SIAMS inspector visit

Governor Training

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

- Dealing with complaints
- Preparation for SIAMS
- Governor Briefings
- Safer recruitment refresher training.
- School funding, budgeting and financial management.
- Headteacher appraisal.
- Safeguarding.
- School performance data - primary schools
- Annual Governance Conference.

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:

- Christian ethos and vision throughout the school
- Collective Worship
- SATS Administration
- Health and safety.
- The school website
- The School's Financial Value Standard process and evidence.

Compliance

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

- Ensuring compliance with published government 'statutory policies for schools'.
- Adhering to an agreed cycle of review of school policies and procedures
- Updating policies as needs arise

Forward Planning

The Governing Board looks forward to continuing to make an impact in the forthcoming academic year. This will include:

- Sustainability for small church schools
- Governor recruitment and succession planning

Other information and contact

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

www.Folksworth.eschools.co.uk

This includes information regarding attendance of governors at meetings and their declarations of interest.