



Annual Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Body of Gresham Village School and Nursery November 2023

At Gresham Village School and Nursery, we believe that by a commitment from everyone working together, parents, staff, governors and children, we will provide an education for every child, that will enable them to grow as unique individuals prepared for the next steps in their lives. Our aims and values guide us in all our decision making, from deciding on our development priorities to assembly themes and curriculum choices.

The values that we encourage the children to develop are

- Be kind and respectful
- Believe in yourself
- Be positive and persevere
- Take part
- Challenge yourself
- And ... aim high

As a school, we focus on high quality teaching and learning which empowers every individual to acquire, demonstrate, articulate and value knowledge and skills so they become well-rounded citizens equipped for the challenges of the 21st century.

The Local Governing Body of Gresham Village School and Nursery has a focus on its three core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students, and the performance management of staff;
3. Awareness of the financial performance of the school.

Governance arrangements

- The Local Governing Body consists of two Parent Governors, one Staff Governor, four Community Governors and the Headteacher. The role of chairman is shared between two community governors.
- There are Link Governors for Safeguarding, SEND, Pupil Premium, Wellbeing, Monitoring, Equality, Pupil Voice, Health and Safety, Premises and Sports Premium.
- The Governing Body meets regularly at least twice a term. They have an annual Monitoring Day when they view the school in action and meet with the staff subject leaders. Link governors meet with the relevant school staff on a regular basis depending on their roles.
- The school is a member of the Synergy Multi Academy Trust. The Trust provides centralised services including managing school finance and estates. The chair of governors meets with representatives of the schools in the trust, trust directors and the CEO at least once each term to discuss strategic developments.

Attendance record of governors	Attendance has been good. Below is a link to the attendance data for governors on the school website. Gresham Village School & Nursery - Our Governors
The work that we have done	<p>Throughout 2022-23 governors have all been involved in Horizon Planning to look at the development of GVS&N over the next five years and beyond. The process has involved information gathering and meetings with all stakeholders- staff, parents, pupils, trust board directors, parish representatives and the governors. The final five-year plan can be viewed by contacting the headteacher. The plan is the basis of the school's current School Improvement and Development Plan for 2023-24.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic development The school has grown in numbers of both pupils and staff. In September 2023, the school was able to offer one class per year group. We aim to maintain the provision at this level and will not increase class numbers further. Further development of the buildings and outdoor environment are planned to achieve the optimum facilities for the pupils and staff. • Quality of education, particularly the curriculum Following central discussion of the optimum primary curriculum within the Trust, we are now embedding the Cornerstones Curriculum across KS1 &KS2. We will continue to teach maths using the White Rose scheme and early reading will be supported by Read Write Inc as before. Governors regularly monitor areas of the curriculum, with areas of priority in 2022/23 being writing and preparation for the new Cornerstones curriculum, to ensure that it met the needs of all children in KS1 & KS2. • Educational performance The head teacher provides verbal or written summaries of pupils' progress and attainment, measured against national targets, to the full governing body each term. Areas for intervention and support in key subjects are discussed to ensure that each individual pupil achieves the best possible educational outcome. Wider educational opportunities for all pupils are regularly reviewed. • Monitoring Governors have an annual monitoring programme which includes selected topics each term. In addition, we spend a full day in school during the spring term, when governors can see the school first hand and meet with pupils and staff. Individual governors have their own areas of responsibility which usually involve meeting with the headteacher, staff or pupils two or three times each year. The specific areas monitored in this way include; Safeguarding, SEND, Pupil Premium, Staff wellbeing, Equality and Health and Safety The outcome of all monitoring is shared with the Full Governing Body. • Feedback from children and parents The Governors held a Focus Group meeting with parents as part of the Horizon Planning process in Spring of 2023. The annual parent survey was completed online. The results were discussed

	<p>and the summary of feedback on parent’s concerns was issued in a letter to parents in the summer term.</p> <p>Feedback from children is gained by governors attending School Council Meetings, playground visits, school music and drama performances and meeting more formally with groups of children during our spring monitoring day.</p> <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Safeguarding is regularly monitored by the Safeguarding Governor both independently and during meetings with the headteacher. Reports are regularly presented to the Governing Body. The Single Central Record is monitored to ensure compliance.</p> <p>Key issues faced and addressed by the Local Governing Body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil wellbeing and mental health have been of greater concern since the pandemic. The school has appointed a mental health lead and set up an inclusion team to care for pupil wellbeing. • Staff wellbeing is a focus within the school and Trust, with a full Trust Inset day devoted to this topic in September 2022 • Development of additional classroom provision and upgrading of the school environment, to cater for increased pupil numbers. The school now has one form per year group. A classroom for year 5 was opened in September 2023 and Mr Davies was appointed as their class teacher • The staff have been preparing for the introduction of the new Cornerstones primary curriculum in September 2023. The Headteacher is a key member of the Trust Curriculum Development Group, advising all schools in Synergy Trust. • We have continued to monitor improving standards in writing, to include implementation of the whole school writing strategy and staff training. • Developments within the senior leadership team have included, development of the inclusion team, for pupil welfare, and the standards team for maintaining standards and the quality of education. Subject leaders have been grouped into curriculum teams to include STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and Outdoor learning teams. • Resurfacing of the car park and expanding parking provision to include the Village Hall car park
<p>Future plans for the Local Governing Body</p>	<p>The school is continuing to build on issues triggered by the pandemic and address gaps in educational achievement. These include improved attendance, pupil wellbeing and a focus on educational standards to include writing.</p> <p>The main areas identified within the Governors Five Year review are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To support children’s personal development, including children’s specific talents and mental health, so all children can flourish. •To deliver a consistently inspiring and ambitious curriculum that leads to excellent outcomes for all children •To develop the expertise of all staff in order to deliver best practice in teaching and learning across the school

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To create a school learning environment that supports our aims for children’s personal development and the delivery of an inspiring and ambitious curriculum •To implement leadership and governance structures that support thee strategic and operational running of the school •To improve partnerships and communication with parents and the local community and the school’s offer of support for families •To create a sustainable financial model that supports the growth of the school
<p>How you can contact the Governing Body</p>	<p>The governors value suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and carers. Please contact the Chairs of Governors- Gillian Sampson and Rosabelle Batt via the school office.</p> <p>A full list of governors, their attendance at meetings and minutes of Local Governing Body meetings are available on the Governors’ page of the school website.</p>