



Friars Grove Primary School

The Governance Statement

July 2024



In accordance with the Governments requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Friars Grove Primary School Governing body are:

1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction.
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body of Friars Grove Primary was re-constituted in 2014 and is now made up of 15 members:

- . 3 Parent Governors
- . 1 LA Governor
- . 2 Staff Governors (including the Head teacher)
- . 9 Co-opted Governors.

We currently have 2 Parent Governor Vacancies, a Staff Vacancy and 3 Co-opted Governor vacancies and are actively recruiting for new members.

The Governors are chosen for their skills and their commitment to the school which is required for the effective governance and continued success of the school.

The Full Governing Body has delegated to a sub-committee, the Premises, Finance and Personnel (PFP) (10 members).

The PFP discusses and agrees the financial arrangements for the school to maximise best practice and to promote good financial management. It sets and reviews the school budget and ensures the school achieves value for money.

The full Governing body meets twice a term. Governors receive a report from senior team leaders on the performance of the school, the quality of the teaching and the overall effectiveness to maintain and improve the achievements of the pupils. Discussions align with our focussed objectives that are set out in the school development plan:

- Leadership and Management
- Quality of Education
- Behaviour and Attitudes
- Personal Development
- Outcomes
- Send Update

The Premises, Finance and Personnel (PFP) meet at least once each term and report back to the Full Governing body.



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An important part of the school governance is the control and acceptance of the various policies which guide the operation of the school. These are reviewed and updated as necessary on a rolling program by the committees to ensure they meet the needs of the school and comply with all legal regulations.

Attendance of Governors

Governors' attendance at meetings is excellent. Meetings have always been quorate (the minimum number of governors present to ensure that decisions are legally binding).

Some of the work supported by the Governors

This academic year, the governing body have monitored the objectives set out in the School Development Plan and looked at further improvements to the quality of teaching and learning across the school.

Organised Governor visits to school enable Governors to meet with subject leaders, class teachers and pupils to ensure staff and pupil voice is heard. Governors discuss how policy is working in practise and hear how it is impacting on pupil and staff achievement and wellbeing. The Governors engage effectively with children, staff, parents and members of the community and consider staff and pupil wellbeing in every decision, ensuring wellbeing surveys are conducted annually.

Focus this year has been on encouraging more able children to work at greater depth ensuring all children feel challenged in their learning. Governors have been supportive in increasing staff confidence in working with children with SEND and those displaying challenging behaviours, closely monitoring approaches and outcomes.

The Personnel, Finance and Premises Committee meet at least once a term to monitor staffing, agree future spending priorities and balancing the school budget, which continues to be the biggest challenge. An energy grant received this year will cover switching over to LED bulbs in the majority of classrooms and toilets, which will aid keeping rising energy costs down.

The Governing Body have a good understanding of the school and the direction it is going in. They hold leaders to account and ensure that the school is fulfilling its duties. Safeguarding is taken very seriously, and the Governors receive annual safeguarding training. The school works well with outside agencies and has effective safeguarding systems in place. Once a term the nominated Safeguarding Governor meets with the Headteacher to discuss safeguarding and to check necessary systems are working well.

Governors provide support to the school in a variety of ways; good attendance at Governor meetings, invigilating during SATs week, provide help at PTA events, Governor presence at Parent/Teacher evening as well as assisting in enquiries from the whole school community.

One Governor provided financial education to years 4 and 6 as part of the curriculum. This had been delivered in a fun and digestible way which allowed the children to be engaged and learn positive financial messages. Governors regularly receive updates and engage in training sessions.

In the school's recent OFSTED (July 2023), members of the Governing Body met with the Ofsted Inspector who reported that 'the Governing Body have a realistic and precise view of the work of the school leaders.' The school retained it's 'Good' status.

The school, with the Governors' assistance and support, continues to provide successful, popular wrap around care to assist our families.

How you can contact the governing body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from families and the community - please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr R Goody, via the Clerk at the school office.



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Current Members of the Governing Body

Rodney Goody	Chair of Governors	Sits on all Committees
Susan Shipp	Headteacher	Sits on all Committees
Toni Copp	Deputy Headteacher	Full Governing Body meetings
Jeremy Gush	LA Governor	Vice Chair of Personnel, Finance and Premises Committee/ Full Governing Body meetings
Laura Sargent	Vice Chair	Chair of Personnel, Finance and Premises Committee/ Vice Chair of Full Governing Body meetings
Helen McCombe	Co-opted	Personnel, Finance and Premises Committee/ Full Governing Body meetings
Martyn Mellis	Co-opted (Link)	Full Governing Body meetings
Ian Levinson	Co-opted	Full Governing Body meetings
Melissa Jethwa-Flack	Parent	Personnel, Finance and Premises Committee/ Full Governing Body meetings
Christine McDonald	Co-opted	Full Governing Body meetings

Clerk to Governors: Jo Claydon