



## FORDLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2023/24

The three core strategic functions of the 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, 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 consists of:

- 6 Co-opted Governors
- 2 Foundation Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 4 Parent Governors
- 1 Staff Governor
- The Headteacher

The full Governing body meets twice per term with additional meetings if required. It has two Committees (Resources and Standards) which consider different aspects of the school enabling the full Governing body to adopt a strategic approach. There are also two Committees (Admissions and Performance Management) that meet as and when required during the academic year. The Committees list for 2023/24 is detailed below:

| COMMITTEE                     | GOVERNORS   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Resources</b>              | Carol Featherstone<br>Gemma Wrightson<br>Brian Peutherer<br>Graham Parker<br>Chris Maule (Associate)<br>Claire Withers (Head) |
| <b>Standards</b>              | Janice Mole<br>Jackie McHanwell<br>Laurie Topping<br>Sarah Burtenshaw<br>Chris Stewart<br>Claire Withers (Head)               |
| <b>Admissions</b>             | Carol Featherstone<br>Claire Withers (Head)<br>X 1 other Governor   |
| <b>Performance Management</b> | Carol Featherstone<br>Brian Peutherer<br>Janice Mole  |

## Attendance Record of Governors

Meetings have to be attended by a minimum number of governors to ensure that decisions are legally binding. The Governors' attendance record for 2023/24 is detailed below:

| Name of Governor         | GB mtgs | Resources mtgs | Standards mtgs |
|--------------------------|---------|----------------|----------------|
| Carol Featherstone       | 6/7     | 6/6            | -              |
| *Janice Mole             | 4/4     | -              | 6/6            |
| Gemma Wrightson (VC)     | 6/7     | 5/6            | -              |
| Emma Foody               | 0/1     | -              | -              |
| Emily Neder              | 1/1     | -              | 1/1            |
| Brian Peutherer          | 6/7     | 5/6            | -              |
| Jackie McHanwell (Chair) | 7/7     | -              | 6/6            |
| Claire Withers           | 7/7     | 6/6            | 6/6            |
| Sarah Burtenshaw         | 2/3     | -              | 1/3            |
| *Lawren Rae              | 0/1     | -              | -              |
| Simon Coates             | 1/1     | -              | 1/1            |
| Graham Parker            | 3/7     | 5/6            | -              |
| *Tracy Willis            | 1/1     | -              | -              |
| Laurie Topping           | 4/7     | -              | 4/6            |
| Christopher Stewart      | 7/7     | -              | 6/6            |

*\*J Mole resigned on 29/11/23*

*\*L Rae resigned on 20/03/24*

*\*T Willis resigned on 2/09/24*

## Effectiveness of the Governing body

Autumn term - Governors adopted the National Governance Association's latest Code of Conduct. All governors received safeguarding training which included KCSIE 2023 and cyber security online training. Governors had supported the Headteacher in securing a new Catering Services provider from April 2024. Governor monitoring visits had included pupil voice regarding safeguarding, the EY and engagement with learning.

Spring term – an extraordinary meeting was held in early January 2024 as structural building issues had been identified late in the Autumn term. The school had been temporarily closed whilst a structural inspection had been carried out. Due to the severity of the issues the EY and Y4+5 were relocated to a local primary school with Y6 relocated to the local secondary school. The remaining year groups were accommodated on-site, albeit in different parts of the building. Pupils and staff were taken by coach to the primary and secondary schools each day with SLT working across all sites. Given the nature of the building issues the second governing body meeting of the term was held remotely. The curriculum was adjusted during this time but the quality of teaching and learning had not diminished and staff CPD sessions were suspended to support mental health and well-being. During this term governor monitoring visits were suspended although the Chair had visited school to meet with the Headteacher.

Summer term – the modular classrooms were installed this term with all pupils back on site after the May half term. There was still a lack of clarity on what would happen to the building. A Safeguarding monitoring visit had taken place with the move to the modular classrooms.

## Impact of the Governing body

- Supported the Headteacher during a difficult and uncertain period with regard to the building issues. Monitored the health and well-being of pupils and staff during this challenging time.
- Reviewed and monitored statutory policies as well as school policies

- Benchmarked the school's budget against similar local schools and nationally.
- Signed off the School's Financial Value Standard.
- Direct input into each section of the school's Self Evaluation Form.
- Reviewed the school's Development Plan and priorities.

#### **Plans for next academic year**

- Continue to monitor the health and well-being of pupils and staff, including the Headteacher now that all pupils were back on site.
- Continue with reviewing and monitoring policies, benchmarking the school's budget against other similar schools and monitoring attendance.
- Continue to keep a watching brief around academisation.

#### **How you can contact the Governing body**

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas. Please contact the Clerk to the Governing body via email at: [jacqui@schoolclerk.co.uk](mailto:jacqui@schoolclerk.co.uk).