



## **Willow Grove Primary School Governor Statement 2024/2025**

### **Our Role**

The role of the Governing Body of Willow Grove School is to ensure high standards of achievement for all children in the school by:

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governors are not involved in the day-to-day management of the school but do visit the school in respect of their specific designated roles (details below). Governors have also attended several school-based activities such as Willow Grove's Got Talent, Easter Cake Bake, Meet and Greet events, Parents evenings, and Leaver's Assembly.

Willow Grove School has a constitution of 12 governors. The board is made up of two governors who are elected by parents, one governor who is elected by the staff and a governor who is nominated by the local authority. In addition, there are seven co-opted governors allowed. The head teacher is also eligible to be a governor.

There are currently only five co-opted governors and as such there are two vacancies. There is also a vacancy for a parent governor. Free induction training is available to all governors and additional training is available covering various aspects of the role.

The Governing Body meets twice a term to receive reports from the head teacher, budget information from the School Business Manager and presentations from staff in respect of curriculum. The Head Teacher's report includes all aspects of school life such as curriculum development, staffing, attainment, attendance, and safeguarding.

It is important to the governing body that every pupil feels valued and respected as individuals. We therefore focus on their learning and wellbeing, looking at their attainment and progression. We look not only at teaching but also at behavioural issues, how school record and manage incidents. Safeguarding is our top priority. We look too into the wellbeing of our staff and their professional development.



## **Managing the Budget**

One of the core functions of the Governing Body is management of the school budget. Governors receive detailed budget monitoring information and information on money available to fund new work. This is always a great challenge with the reduced and limited funds available to the school.

Whilst the funding of the school is, and continues to be challenging, the school effectively manages its financial resources despite additional pressures and an increased demand for places from pupils with complex needs.

Our oversight of the school budget includes the impact of any staffing proposals, building and maintenance work and the provision of resources. We are responsible for ensuring that any grants received by the school are used to enhance the learning and development of the children - this can include Sports Premium, Pupil Premium and Pupil Premium Plus. We are aware of and monitor the gap in attainment for the more vulnerable groups within school.

Whilst appraisals of the staff are completed by the Headteacher, there is a specific committee to consider the performance of the headteacher, and to make decisions on pay progression where appropriate. The report from the head on staff appraisals and the report in respect of the head teacher's performance are used to inform the Pay Committee who have oversight and responsibility to agree proposed pay levels.

## **Key Issues Faced and Addressed by the Governing Body**

We are currently undertaking the recruitment process for a new head teacher following the retirement of our previous head. This is an enormous responsibility and one the governing body takes very seriously. It is essential that we appoint the right person to continue to drive forward the progress of Willow Grove in its support of our children their families and our staff.

The Governing Body are aware of the increasingly challenging needs of the pupils coming into school in terms of their low prior levels of attainment, their previous experiences within mainstream education which may have resulted in extended periods of nonattendance. We are aware too of the specific social and emotional health needs that can be a barrier to learning.

As the school has disadvantaged pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and others who are/were Children Looked After, it is recognised that the school must provide targeted support and interventions. Governors closely monitor outcomes



achieved and the success of targeted interventions and therefore have seen the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils narrow over time, particularly in the subjects of reading. The school and Governors are not complacent. Whilst happy with the direction of travel we are looking for further improvements this academic year.

Governors also know their role in safeguarding. Safeguarding visits are undertaken each term with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) where we evaluate our systems and procedures ensuring we meet our responsibilities. This approach has worked well, and the team feel supported in the vital work they do.

Another role of the Governing Body is to review and agree school policies. This year we have considered several key policies and have made them available on our website.

All Governors have specific areas of responsibility, this enables the Governing body to effectively look at all areas of the school in a constructive way, encouraging evaluation and improvements to those specific areas.

### **Designated Roles**

Safeguarding*	Jackie Woods
Curriculum	Michelle Amberry
Finance*	Stephen Jones
Premises/Health & Safety	Claire Trevor
SEND/Vulnerable Children*	Gillian Leadbetter-Simms
Parent Liaison	
GDPR	Jeanette Artis
Diversity & Pupil Voice	Simon Readings
Wellbeing	Ashley Martindale

\*statutory requirement

### **Attendance Record of Governors**

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings which are held in school. We have never cancelled a meeting because it was not “quorate” (this is the number of governors needed to ensure that business can be transacted). A full register of Governors Attendance during the academic year is available on the school website.