

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Southrop C of E Primary School
October 2024**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the four core strategic functions of the Southrop C of E Primary School Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the co-headteachers to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
4. Ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body of Southrop C of E Primary School is made up of 9 Governors in total:

2 x elected Parent Governors
1 x Local Authority
1 x elected Staff Governor
1 x Head Teacher
2 x Foundation Governors
2 x Co-opted Governors

In the 2023/2024 year the Governing Board had unfilled vacancies for Local Authority Governor and a co-opted Governor. These vacancies have been filled for the start of the 2024/2025 academic year.

The Full Governing Body meets at least 6 times each year. If Governors are unable to attend a meeting they are required to give their apologies with reasons and the Governing Body decides whether or not to accept these apologies.

The Governing Body elects its own Chair and Vice Chair.

We have two standing committees; The Pay Committee and The Ethos Committee. There are also several panels which form and meet on an as needed basis: Head Teachers' Performance, Pay Appeal; Staff Dismissal, Staff Dismissal Appeal; Pupil Exclusion Appeal.

The work that we have done in the last year (academic year 23/24).	Activity during the preceeding 12 months has included: • Produced and adopted Behaviour Principles for the school (upon which school behaviour policy is based). • Supported the school's Ofsted inspection in October 2023 and supported staff and communicated alongside Co-Heads with parents following this. • Raised concerns over the manor in which the inspection was conducted with Ofsted. • Supported and engaged with school improvement actions including attendance at Special Project Group meetings with GCC. • Produced a New Governor Induction plan. • Significant work in materials and reach to recruit new Governors (all saved for future use) • Participated in a Governance Review and implemented recommendations for improvement from this. • Oversaw the change of Head Teacher leadership in the school and change to staffing structure, subjecting this to due scrutiny to ensure the change was in the best strategic interests of the school and enabled rapid school improvement. Megan Davies was appointed as sole Head Teacher and Head Teacher non-teaching time increased from 3 to 4 days, and a new Cygnet class teacher appointed. • Recruited and appointed new governors with a range of relevant skills and experience to create a full governing board to move forward. • Arranged extensive training for the Governing Board for the 2024/25 year as part of school improvement. • Commenced work on investigating whether joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is in the best interests of the school. Identified areas of key importance for the school and used this to inform an information gathering exercise from potential MATs. This data was used by Governors in a MAT options appraisal applying Analytical Hierarchy tool to aid an objective ranking of the MATs. This investigation continues into 2024/25. • Progressed the review of the school vision (this was delayed to the latter part of the year due to Ofsted) including attendance at a Diocese of Gloucester bespoke workshop for staff and governors of the school pulling together previously gathered parent, pupil, Parochial Church Council, Governor and staff feedback. A new vision and values are to be launched in the first half of 24/25. • Challenged GCC on the application of new SEND funding criteria and supported the Co-Heads in getting GCC errors in funding corrected. • Attended local Chair's cluster meetings to improve liaison and knowledge sharing with other local Governing Boards. • Wrote to the Jubilee Close Committee to justify and request a reduction in fees paid by the school in relation to the field (a reduction was subsequently agreed). • Supported the Co-Heads (and latterly Head) in improving the visibility of the school to prospective and current parents and care givers and to raise the local profile in our community including key input to a new Prospectus and support of the School opening for Southrop Open Gardens and establishment of a Working Party to lead events related to the School's 175 anniversary in 2025.
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	- Reviewed effectiveness of external marketing support and agreed to continue with this. - Supported the School ethos through Governor attendance at school events including Church services and morning worship, leavers lunch and nativity play. - Worked with the Head Teacher on the School Development Plan. - Moved all Governance documentation and records to new platform to facilitate smarter working and better document management. - Agreed to reduce external School Improvement Advisor service to an item based approach to better complement and avoid overlap with service from GLOSSI (GCCs school improvement service) and from Special Project Group. We have continued to support and monitor the school's efforts to ensure that all pupils receive high quality education and that they achieve to the best of their ability in line with the school vision. In addition to the above actions we have continued to do this through: - Critical questioning and examination of progress data. - One-to-one meetings with year group leads and their appointed Governor to review progress data termly. - Learning walks by Governor's and meetings with subject leads to review subject action plans, as well as for SEND and Wellbeing and providing feedback.
Future Plans	We will continue to support and monitor the school's efforts to ensure that all pupils receive high quality education and that they achieve to the best of their ability. We will continue to engage with the Special Project Group to monitor and participate in school improvement. Our monitoring will focus on areas identified by Ofsted for improvement and scrutiny of data for different pupil groups including those of SEND students and free school meals to ensure that all students are able to participate fully, and encouraged to strive to be the best they can be in line with the school vision and achieve their potential. We will use Insight to assist in monitoring pupil progress. We will adopt a new Vision Statement and values and draw up and monitor a revised School Development Plan. We will develop and improve the skills of the Governing Body collectively, and individually, through training including training for: New Governors, Safeguarding, Governor Roles and Responsibilities, and Governor's role in the curriculum.
Contact	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents - please contact the Chair of Governors (chair@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk), or one of the other Governors using their details as shown in "Governors Details".