



PRIORY JUNIOR SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024/25

The Core Functions of the Governing Body

- ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined;
- ensuring that the Headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school; and
- ensuring the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at the school throughout the course of the 2024/25 academic year.

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government allows for 12 governors across different categories.

Current membership: 11

Current vacancies: 1 – Co-opted Governor

Through the course of the 2024/25 Academic Year, I am pleased to report that from September this year we have a very stable Governing Body with two new Parent Governors starting in September and we have lost no Governors this year. We have had a vacancy for 1 co-opted Governor that we have been unable to recruit to during the year.

At this time, we envisage 2 co-opted Governors resigning / ending their terms as of the end of this Academic Year, leaving us with 3 co-opted Governor vacancies for which we will continue to explore ways to recruit.

Chair: Stephen Hardy

Vice-Chair: Suzy Buckley (Curriculum and Standards lead)

Vice Chair: Rachel Coe (Resources lead)

Clerk: Richard Walmsley

Attendance: Over the course of the year, Governors at Priory Junior School have demonstrated an overall positive attendance at Governing Board meetings and engagement with their work. Additionally, committed to attending various in school visits and meetings during the year.

https://www.priory.cambs.sch.uk/website/governing_body_meetings/170645

The Structure of Governance

The Board uses the circle model and has met as a Full Board 9 times this year.

In addition to the above, the school also constitutes a Salary Review Committee and Headteacher Performance Management Panel annually.

Committees related to particular purposes, such as dealing with complaints or exclusions, are constituted as they are required, in line with the determining policy guidance.

Impact of the work of the Full Governing Body

Over the course of the last academic year, the Governing Body has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Through implementation of the new Circle Model meeting format for governing body meetings we have seen more productive and effective meetings and we will continue to review and improve this model of working.
- Recruitment of both a new Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher.
- Maintaining a comprehensive and effective programme of monitoring visits, including safeguarding, core and foundation subjects, and the establishment of the school's Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme.
- Supporting the Headteacher with significant issues relating to the premises, including playground drainage, leaking roofs and incorrectly installed fire doors.

The main challenges faced and addressed by the Board this year have been ;

- Recruitment of new Parent and Co-opted Governors
- Restructuring of the school's finance and office support staff.
- Support of the SLT in terms of adjusting to the next 3 - 5 year budget plan due to a reduction in the school roll.

Governor Training

Governors work collectively, so we are always able to benefit from our different points of view and areas of expertise within meetings. However, the Governing Body has also benefitted from training courses on the following key topics throughout the course of the year;

- Governor Induction Training (for our new Governors joining in this academic year)
- The Prevent duty
- Safeguarding
- Finance / Budget monitoring
- Safer Recruitment

In addition to these key training courses Governors have attended additional training over the past year that include Health & Safety, Cyber Security, Developing & Monitoring the Primary Curriculum, Schools Property and Estates Management.

Governor Monitoring

As well as attending meetings, governors are also expected to visit school to understand more about school life and particular areas of priority (typically linked with different areas of the curriculum, or school development).

Throughout the course of this year, governors have undertaken monitoring in relation to:

Safeguarding – 2 meetings per term

SEND / Pupil Premium – 1 meeting per term

Financial Audits – 1 meeting per term

Health & Safety Committee - 1 meeting per term

Subjects – 1 meeting per term with subject leads in English, Maths, Science and one selected Foundation Subject

Web site compliance – 1 audit/meeting per academic school year.

Compliance

The Governing Body has ensured that an effective safeguarding culture is in place. Our work includes:

- A Link Governor for safeguarding who meets with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, twice a term throughout the academic year.
- During all school visits by Governors a safeguarding related question will always be asked by the visiting Governor.

The Governing Body has ensured that the relevant policies and procedures are in place by:

- Ensuring that at each Full Governing Body meeting an agenda item covers all policies and procedures due for review and approval by the Governing Body. A full list of all relevant policies and procedures is maintained with all review dates included.

Forward Planning

As our new Headteacher takes up the position in September 2025, the Full Governing Body will be supporting plans for the development of a new 5 year strategic plan in addition to the new School Development Plan for the academic year 2025/26.

‘Inclusion for All Framework’

Inclusion is the removal of barriers and ensuring a culture of belonging for all pupils. Within the ‘Inclusion for all Framework’ we will create a sense of belonging and promote well-being and attendance through safeguarding, curriculum, special education needs and disabilities support, behaviour and transition.

During this past academic year the school have implemented a number of initiatives in this regard, which include :-

- The school has developed The Ark this year – a nurture provision to support children’s well-being and attendance. Safeguarding concerns are followed up robustly, with swift actions taken.
- Themed days have been established, building on the success of last year, to raise the profile of a whole-school sense of belonging.
- The school has implemented a Behaviour Curriculum for all children this year. Where children have needed additional support, this has been put into place.
- A new maths intervention has been implemented which has been very successful for SEND children.
- The school works closely with our feeder infant school on transition and also our local secondary school – to ensure that information is shared to support children.

Other information and Contact

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found on the school’s website at:

<https://www.priory.cambs.sch.uk/website/governors/144346>

Contact with the Governing Body can be made initially through contacting the Chair of Governors at chair@priory.cambs.sch.uk.