



Excellence, compassion & respect for all

FRAMWELLGATE SCHOOL DURHAM

Governance report for the Annual General Meeting of the Trust Board 2024-25

The Chair of Governors presented an annual report to Members and Trustees of the Excel Academy Partnership at the AGM in December.

“2024-25 was another busy and demanding year for the Local Governing Board. The composition of the LGB remained the same, with governors becoming more confident in their roles. Mr Wright wanted to encourage governors to be more strategic, and he challenged them, in the Autumn term, with the following questions:-

- Do governors understand their role and is this carried out effectively ?
- Do governors ensure the school has a clear vision and strategy and are leaders held to account for the quality of education.
- How do governors ensure the school fulfils its statutory duties e.g. safeguarding.

Discussions at LGB and subcommittee levels followed throughout the year as governors provided answers to these questions, both individually and as a group. This provided evidence that the quality of governance is strong.

The role of individual Link Governors was also further developed through the following questions:-

- Define your role. What is the main objective ?
- In what ways does this role link to the School Development Plan ?
- What do you need to focus on – break the objectives down into manageable sections.
- How will you Quality assure this area ?

By the end of the school year governors had completed link visits with individual members of the SLT and submitted both written reports on the web and oral reports in meetings. Governors now feel increasingly confident to support and challenge staff in areas such as SEND, Safeguarding, Reading, Careers, Behaviour, Sixth Form, Inclusion and intervention”.

Governor Training

Governors have completed the following training through BiteSize videos and presentations in 2024-25:-

- Safeguarding refresher, bullying training + KCSIE
- Cyber Security & Generative AI
- Childhood trauma and the brain
- Mental health & Wellbeing
- Prevent training for governors (DfE)
- Mental health & Wellbeing
- Pupil exclusions and suspensions
- New Ofsted Toolkit – DCC training for governors
- Protection for young people from radicalisation.

Governor Up-date

January 2026

Groundbreaking Ceremony December 11th 2025

This ceremony marked the official start of the re-building of Framwellgate School. It was a very significant occasion for everybody - staff, students and our community. Hard hats, high vis jackets and books were required. Year 7 students cheered and a celebratory spade was presented. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Trust and the Chair of Governors were present.

BAM is the construction firm building the school. They explained the issues they have had to overcome so far on the site, including very wet weather and the removal of tons of peat. All agreed that plans look tremendous and there is great excitement about a new school building.



150 years of education at Framwellgate 1877-2027

The first Framwellgate School was opened in 1877 on the Front Street. Since 1877 there has been continual education in our community.

The school in the community centre was not replaced until 1965 when the current school was opened.

Additional blocks were built in the 1970s but the school remained largely unchanged as residents see it today.

The new Framwellgate School is scheduled to open in 2027.