

GEORGE MITCHELL SCHOOL
ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/2023



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Scope of Responsibility

George Mitchell's governing board is responsible for the conduct of its school and must promote high standards of educational achievement at the school. It is the school's accountable body and as such:

- provides a strategic view of the school by establishing a vision and setting the purpose and aims of the school within an agreed policy framework. It appoints and performance manages the Headteacher, agreeing the school improvement strategy which includes setting statutory targets with supporting budgets and staffing structures.
- monitors and evaluates the work of the school by reviewing the performance of the headteacher, the effectiveness of the policy framework, progress towards targets, and the effectiveness of the school improvement strategy.
- signs off the self-evaluation process and responds to school improvement service and Ofsted reports as necessary. In addition, it holds the headteacher to account for the performance of the school and ensures that parents are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate, with information to the community being made available as required.

Governance

The appointment of co-opted trustees is the overall duty of the Partnership Learning Trust, who have delegated this responsibility to the George Mitchell governing board comprised of individuals with the skills required to undertake effective governance for the benefit and success of the students and staff at the school.

The Governing Board consists of the following:

- The Headteacher
- One Board appointed Trustee
- One Staff elected Trustee (currently vacant)
- Two Parent elected Trustees (1 vacancy)
- 8 Co-opted Trustees

The governing board meets five times a year, the resource committee meets four times a year. The curriculum committee visits the school regularly, meets virtually twice a year, writes regular reports for the board and verbally advises it on all matters related to the student attainment and achievement.

Conflicts of interests

George Mitchell manages conflicts of interests by (but not limited to) maintaining an up-to-date and complete register of interests, which is published on the schools website. Trustees are also requested to declare any and all potential conflicts related to the agenda at each meeting. Further information on how conflicts are overseen at Trust level can be found in the Partnership Learning Annual Report available on the school's website at: [Partnership Learning Financial Reporting](#)

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The Board, Committees & Attendance

Full information about the membership of the governance board, including tenures, responsibilities, committee membership and attendance can be found via the George Mitchell website at: [George Mitchell School Governing Board](#)

Governance Review

An external assessment of the governing board determined that the board should develop its understanding of the school's curriculum. As a result, a curriculum committee was established in September 2022. In addition, the governing board elected to increase in number from 7 co-opted trustees to 8 to expand capacity and expertise.

In June 2023 an inspection by Ofsted rated the board's governance of George Mitchell school as 'Good'.

Review of value for money / Internal System of Control / Audit & Risks

The George Mitchell Governing Board considers value for money in all its financial deliberations via its resources committee as detailed above.

Partnership Learning's CEO is the Trust's accounting officer, as such he has overall responsibility for ensuring that its schools and academies deliver good value in the use of public resources.

Partnership Learning's Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of directors. Its purpose is to oversee External Audit, the Internal Controls Framework (including a review of its effectiveness via Internal Audit) and the Trust Risk Register.

Detailed information about Partnership Learning Trust's responsibilities as outlined in this section (including the school's complete financial statement) can be found via the George Mitchell school website at: [Partnership Learning Financial Reporting](#)

During the 2022/23 academic year the George Mitchell Governing Board has:

- Considered the latest 2022 revision of Keeping Children Safe in Education and undertaken the statutory training.
- Established a curriculum committee.
- Disqualified one member for non-attendance.
- Elected to increase the number of co-opted Board Trustees by one to improve capacity and skillset.
- Reviewed and participated on the recruitment and appointment process for the deputy head teacher and senior leadership team members.
- Considered the reports of the Headteacher and those of her senior leadership team related to student performance data and strategic issues facing the school.
- Ensured that the safety and wellbeing of its students and staff are well maintained by visiting the premises regularly and engaging with pupils and staff.

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- Confirmed that Health and Safety at the school is of the highest order by considering reports from the premises manager,
- Challenged through questioning the data to examine the potential to improve attainment and the school experience generally for our pupils.
- Supported the school's careers lead in her efforts to secure aspirational future pathways for GM students.
- Monitored the staffing levels and enquire about performance to ensure quality of teaching.
- Scrutinised the financial management of the school including the monthly budget monitoring reports and completed the Schools Financial Value Statement.
- Ensured that statutory policies are up to date by undertaking regular reviews.
- Attended training, self-monitored skills and increased capacity to ensure the ability to deliver the best outcomes for the school.
- Scrutinised and reviewed our practices in relation to the effective governance of the school.

This work is captured in approved minutes of the Governing Board which are available upon request.

Strategic Planning for the future

Board Trustees will continue to closely analyse and monitor the budget to ensure value for money, financial viability and the most effective deployment of funds and resources.

Board Trustees will continue to develop their skills, knowledge and establish systems / methods of working through which the governing body can most effectively in accomplish their responsibilities.

Board Trustees will further seek to improve their communication with parents, students, and the community through by regularly visiting the school and via the school's social media platforms.

Board Trustees will continue to work with the school's headteacher and her senior leadership team to deliver improved outcomes for students in line with the school's priorities as set out in the School Development plans for the secondary and primary phases.

Further Information about the governing board including:

Code of conduct / Membership, tenure, and contact details / Committees / Attendance / Training, etc

Can be found on the George Mitchell website at:

<http://www.georgemitchellschool.com/governing-body/>