

**Annual Governor Impact Statement for the Governing Board of
Higher Walton C of E Primary School
School Year 2023-2024**

Role of the Governing Board

The role of the governing board in a local authority maintained school is set out in education law, namely to 'conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement'. The board also has a legal responsibility to promote pupil wellbeing. It does this by:

Setting Strategic Direction

- Ensuring clarity of vision and ethos
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Making sure statutory duties are met.

Creating Robust Accountability

- Accountability for teaching, achievement, behaviour and safety
- Strengthening and supporting school leadership
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Contributing to school self-evaluation.

Ensuring Financial Probity

- Making sure the school's money is well spent
- Monitoring the use of the Pupil Premium grant and other resources to overcome barriers to learning.

Governance Arrangements

The governing board is made up as follows:

- Parent Governors: 2
- Headteacher: 1

- Staff Governor: 1
- Co-opted Governors: 6
- Local Authority Governor: 1
- Foundation: 3 (including 1 Ex-Officio Governor)

The full Governing Board meets four times per academic year and Governors also meet at least termly as committees to consider various aspects of the school in detail. At Higher Walton CofE Primary School, we have the following committees which focus on:

Resources: finance, staffing, health and safety and premises.

Achievements: curriculum provision and quality of education, academic attainment and progress, pupil attendance, behaviour and discipline, pupils' personal, spiritual, social, moral and cultural development, engagement with the wider community.

Standards and Effectiveness Committee: the effectiveness of leadership and management in the school, the impact of quality of teaching on rates of pupil progress and standards of achievements, the continuing professional development on improving staff performance.

Governors also have specific areas of accountability and visit school regularly to meet pupils and staff, in addition to monitoring specific aspects of the curriculum or areas such as SEN and safeguarding.

There are also committees that meet, if required, to consider pupil discipline, staffing appeals and complaints.

A list of Governors, their terms of office and positions of responsibility is published on the school website.

Governors' Attendance Record

Governing boards make decisions collectively, though they may choose to delegate responsibility to committees, or individuals (including the Headteacher). Attending Governing Board meetings is an essential part of a governor's role and the attendance record for the governors of our school is very good. This ensures that all governors receive the necessary information all at the same time and therefore important and informed decisions can be made as and when necessary on all aspects of the school, staff and pupils.

The attendance record for all governors for 2023/24 was:

Y = Attended, N = Apologies Accepted, NA = Apologies not Accepted, NS = No Apologies sent, ? = Attendance Not Marked, Blank = Not Required,
CA = Consent for absence, - = Not applicable

Governor	Governor Type		Full Governing Board Meeting	Achievements Committee	Resource Committee	Full Governing Board	Pay Committee	Achievements Committee	Resource Committee	Full Governing Board	Achievements Committee	Governance Review Meeting	Standards and Effectiveness	Resource Committee	Full Governing Board	Standards and Effectiveness	Actual / Possible
			13 Sep 2023	04 Oct 2023	15 Nov 2023	29 Nov 2023	29 Nov 2023	24 Jan 2024	28 Feb 2024	27 Mar 2024	24 Apr 2024	01 May 2024	07 May 2024	08 May 2024	10 Jul 2024	18 Jul 2024	Attendance
Joanne Anderton	LEA Governor		N	N		Y		Y		Y	Y	Y			N		5/8
Rachel Atkinson	Co-opted governor		N		Y	Y	Y		Y	N		N	Y	Y	N	N	6/11
Rev Hannah Boyd	Foundation Ex-Officio		Y	Y		Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	10/10
Laura Brown	Co-opted governor		Y	Y		Y		N		Y	Y	Y			Y		7/8
Vicki Clarke	Headteacher	App 30/10/23		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	13/13
Robert Collins	Foundation governor		Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	11/11
Janet Deakin	Foundation governor	App 21/05/24				Y				Y		Y		Y	Y		5/5
Charlotte Foweraker	Parent governor	App 28/02/24								Y		Y		Y	Y		4/4
Alison Fowler	Co-opted governor		N	Y		Y		Y		N	N	N			Y		4/8
India Havery-Wells	Parent governor	App 28/02/24								Y	Y	Y			Y		4/4
Alison Moxham	Co-opted governor	App 27/03/24									Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	5/5
Jackie Noblet	Co-opted governor		N	Y	N	Y		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y		8/12

Catherine Prince	Co-opted governor	App 29/11/23	Y	Y	N	Y			Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	N	Y	9/11
Tracy Proctor	Staff governor		Y	Y		Y		Y		Y	Y	Y			Y		8/8
Katherine Pugh	Co-opted governor	Res 3/11/23	Y														1/1
Denise Sanderson	Foundation governor	Res 3/11/23	Y	N													1/2

Assessment and Impact of the Governing Board during 2023/24 School Year

Resources Committee

The Resource Committee has challenged and supported the development of the following areas during 2023-24:

- Budget recovery process including teacher redundancy. Scrutiny of expenditure ensured strong financial management throughout the year with the school compliant with all areas of the recovery plan.
- Revised procedures relating to accident reporting and staff absence management.
- Replacement Mobile Unit with particular focus on securing funding and health & safety during building works.
- Reintroduction of a 3-year building plan / rolling programme of maintenance to improve the standard of the school building.
- DFC expenditure including LED lighting, redecorating, new class furniture, staff laptops and secure perimeter fence replacement to ensure safeguarding.
- Ownership of the SFVS process including benchmarking and detailed action plan to ensure the future of the schools' financial practices were robustly reviewed.
- Effective use of unofficial school funds to raise quality of education and improve the children's school journey.
- Asset management processes and procedures challenged and identified for review in 2024/25.

Achievements Committee

The Achievements Committee has challenged and supported the development of the following areas during 2023-24:

- Absence Management strategies including the introduction of penalty notices and robust policies and procedures to address rising absence and lateness figures. Appointment of a nominated governor for attendance to ensure continued focus.
- The introduction of a new behaviour policy developed with input from the school council which supported children's personnel development.

- Continual review of curriculum development including specific challenges on:
 - the school's approach to spelling and home reading
 - impact of curriculum changes on staff workload and wellbeing
 - alignment of changes with the Ofsted action plan
 - suitability of the maths scheme in relation to the school's class structure and high SEND levels
- The delivery of school improvement priorities and their alignment to Ofsted actions.
- The introduction of robust and structured academic assessment to ensure accurate analysis of pupil's progress and support the closing of the attainment gap.
- Special Educational Need Provision.

Standards and Effectiveness Committee

The Standards and Effectiveness Committee has challenged and supported the development of the following areas during 2023-24:

- Accuracy of teacher assessments to ensure data analysis was effectively used to drive improvements across school including requests for increased moderation.
- Scrutiny of the new SONAR data tracker including clarity on governor's role in challenging assessment outcomes.
- Review of the resources being used to drive required progress in key cohorts.
- Review of Teacher and TA CPD.
- Revised approach to assessing the SIP agreed.
- Identified support to resolve ongoing issues with SEND support from LCC.
- Actions identified to target improved outcomes in 2024/25 phonics and SAT assessment.

Full Governing Board

The Full Governing Board has challenged and supported the development of the following areas during 2023-24:

- External Governance review carried out.
- Ways of working reviewed to ensure the governing board filled all statutory requirements and delivered effective challenge and scrutiny to ensure ongoing developments and improvements throughout the school.
- Commitment to redefining governor roles, responsibilities and accountabilities.
- Development of a governor training programme with termly reviews to share learnings and drive governing board effectiveness.
- Agreement to request a reduction in the schools PAN from 17 to 15 to aide long term stability in the class structure and budget planning.
- Scrutiny of the revised uniform policy to support delivery of improved uniform standards whilst maintaining affordability.

- Identification of School Improvement Priorities for 2024/25 that underpin the school's vision and ethos.
- Data scrutinised and headteacher challenged on how highlighted issues would be addressed and improvements made to ensure a high quality of education was delivered to all children.
- Outcomes of the parent communication questionnaire explored, and next steps discussed.

Summary

Significant improvement had been made in the school throughout the academic year with governors more informed and confident in understanding, and challenging, attainment data and progress. Improvements had been seen in staff morale, pupil and staff wellbeing, teaching and learning and the fabric of the building.

Following the OFSTED visit on 1st and 2nd November 2024, the Governing Board underwent significant restructure, recruitment and evaluation which resulted in a clear and transparent sharing of information from school.

As a result, the structure of the committee's was reset with members allocated according to strengths and a variety of roles and responsibilities re-established, including key link and subject governors. This process continued to impact on strategic decision making and led to increased accuracy of self-evaluation and knowledge of school by the governors that will continue to be built on next year. An additional committee, in relation to MIT involvement was also established.

CPD, fulfilment of nominated governor roles and quality assurance are some of the items identified in the governor audit and action plan that will continue to be worked on, and reported to full governor meetings, during 2024/25.

Governing board self-evaluation would be carried out in summer 2025 to understand progress made.

Agreed by the Governing Board on:

Signed by the Chair: