

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Whiteheath Infant and Nursery School
September 2025

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

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
2. **Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;**
3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

Governance Arrangements	The Governing Body of Whiteheath Infant and Nursery School was re-constituted in 2024 and is made up of 1 Staff Governor, 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 6 Co-opted Governors and 1 Headteacher. There are two governor vacancies. Recruitment efforts are ongoing. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. During the 2024/25 academic year, the Full Governing Body (FGB) met six times during the school year. The FGB was supplemented by a finance working party (covering: Personnel, Finance & Premises). Each governor was assigned dedicated monitoring roles (link governor) which also include statutory required roles such as Safeguarding and SEND link governors.
Attendance Record of Governors	Governors have excellent attendance at meetings, and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). See p6 and p7 for details of individual governors' attendance at meetings for 2024/2025.
The work that we have done on our committees and in the Governing Body (2024/2025)	**The Full Governing Body** The Full Governing Body (FGB) convened six times—once per half term—ensuring consistent and robust oversight. These formal meetings were complemented by a series of working group sessions and targeted link governor visits, enabling governors to focus on areas such as children and staff wellbeing, safeguarding, health and safety and provision for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). The February 2025 FGB meeting was extended to include a programme of learning walks and classroom observations. Governors had the opportunity to visit lessons in progress, gaining valuable insight into the quality of teaching and learning across the school. We were particularly impressed by the high standards of teaching and the exemplary behaviour demonstrated by pupils.

	The visit also included meaningful engagement with pupil leadership groups, including the school councillors and eco-warriors, followed by a governor Q&A session. This provided a valuable platform for dialogue, reflection, and shared understanding between governors and the wider school community. We have also successfully implemented a new governance approach—the Circle Model. Under this structure, all governors meet more frequently as a full board, enabling more agile and inclusive decision-making. These regular meetings provide a forum for collective discussion and oversight of key areas of school business, including—but not limited to—pupil outcomes, staff and student wellbeing, financial stewardship, and progress against the school's strategic priorities. One of the key benefits of this model is that of strengthened board cohesion, improved transparency, and ensuring all governors remain actively engaged in the school's ongoing development. Governors have periodically reviewed school performance data to monitor pupil progress in core areas including reading, writing, and mathematics. End of year data demonstrated excellent progress (pupils achieving expected or above result) in all three areas for Year 2 pupils. Particular attention has been given to evaluating the effectiveness of strategies designed to support children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and those eligible for Pupil Premium (PP), ensuring that interventions are both targeted and impactful. Physical Education (PE) has also remained a key area of focus this year. Governors were pleased to note the school's commitment to staff development, with teachers receiving dedicated training to enhance their confidence and capability in delivering high-quality PE provision. This investment not only strengthens curriculum delivery but also supports broader outcomes around wellbeing, engagement, and inclusion. Throughout the year, the governing body has maintained continuous rigour and oversight of the school's budget, ensuring that financial decisions are both transparent and strategically aligned; Financial oversight is provided by a subset of governors who form the Finances Working Group and at Full Governor Board meetings. Available funds have been carefully allocated to clearly defined priorities—whether to enhance the quality of teaching and learning or to support the effective management and maintenance of the school's premises. This disciplined approach to financial stewardship reflects our commitment to maximising the impact of every pound spent, ensuring that resources are directed where they are most needed to support pupil outcomes and the wider school environment.
Future priorities for the Governors	1. Continue to monitor the now embedded Dimensions curriculum: • Focus areas: reading, writing, maths • Ensure effective resources and interventions are in place to support Pupil Premium and SEN pupils 2. Monitor and support activities to increase school intake. 3. Monitor the school's budget to ensure that the school has the resources it needs to provide an excellent education for pupils 4. Undertake the necessary maintenance and routine checks to ensure that the school can operate effectively and safely and prioritise projects 5. Focus on the wellbeing of all staff and pupils 6. Attend training to become more proficient and effective in their strategic governance responsibilities 7. Prepare, support and participate in Ofsted inspection
How you can contact the Governing Body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Hema Patel, via the school office.

WHITEHEATH INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY 2024-2025				
Name	**Position**	**Category**	**Specific Roles**	**Term of Office Expiry**
Hema Patel	Chair of Governors	Co-opted Governor	Link Governor for Safeguarding	31/08/26
Cllr Peter Smallwood		Local Authority Governor	Link Governor for Wellbeing/Pay & Staff Committee	31/08/26
Andrea Markou	Vice-Chair of Governors	Co-opted Governor	Link Governor for EYFS (including Curriculum)	05/02/27
Sean Ryan		Co-opted Governor	Link Governor for Finance/Health & Safety	08/10/27
Raphael Kopel		Parent Governor	Link Governor for KS1 (including Curriculum) and Marketing	31/08/25
Samar Khagram		Parent Governor	Link Governor for GDPR/Finance	29/10/27
Linda Swan		Co-opted Governor	Link Governor for Wellbeing/Pay & Staff Committee	04/02/28
Pritesh Solanki		Co-opted Governor	Link Governor for Finance	22/05/25
Jackie Hall	Headteacher	Headteacher		Ongoing
Shabbir Zavery		Co-opted Governor	Link Governor for PP and SEND	22/09/28

	GOVERNING BODY ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS 2024-2025 FGB					
	23/09/24	02/12/24	21/01/25	10/03/25	12/05/25	07/07/25
Jackie Hall	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Maureen Harris	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Raphael Kopel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Samar Khagram	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y
Andrea Markou	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hema Patel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pete Smallwood	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Linda Swan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sean Ryan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pritesh Solanki	N	Y	Y	N	N	N/A
Shabbir Zavery	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
N – Absent						
A – Apologies Accepted						
Y- Attended						

Governors 2023-2024	Meetings attended	Percentage
Jackie Hall	6/6	100%
Raphael Kopel	6/6	100%
Samar Khagram	5/6	100%
Andrea Markou	6/6	100%
Hema Patel	6/6	100%
Sean Ryan	6/6	100%
Peter Smallwood	5/6	83%
Linda Swan	6/6	100%
Pritesh Solanki	2/5	40%
Shabbir Zavery	4/5	80%