Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Aspull Church Primary School 2025/26

ASPULL CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL VISION

We shine like stars to achieve and make a difference in the world, knowing that with God, all things are possible.

OUR VISION AS GOVERNORS OF ASPULL CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

To support in developing a love of learning that enhances the education, life chances and well-being of every pupil at Aspull Church Primary School, rooted in our Christian values of faith, hope & love.

CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

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

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Governing Body of Aspull Church Primary School is made up of 13 members:

- 1 Headteacher
- 1 Staff Governor
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 2 Parent Governors (1 vacancy)
- 4 Methodist Foundation Governors (1 awaiting approval)
- 4 Church of England Foundation Governors

The Governing Body works together as one team, allowing all members to have a full overview of the school's strategic and operational position.

- The Governing Body operates just one sub committee - the Head Teacher Performance Management Committee, supported by an external advisor
- The Governing Body meet formally six times per year (twice every term), and monitoring visits are carried out by individual Governors throughout the year.
- Additional sub committees are convened as appropriate through the year to discuss relevant school matters.

The members of the Governing Body have a wide range of skills and knowledge with each individual bringing their own attributes and qualities to the team, ensuring an active contribution to the school's effective governance. Governors undertake regular training throughout the year, ensuring their knowledge remains current and relevant. An annual skills audit identifies any skills gaps or training requirements. Governor training is recorded in meeting minutes.

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 each members attendance at board meetings is recorded to ensure effective oversight is maintained. The attendance record for the governors of our school is 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 is attached as Appendix 1.

OUR ROLE AS GOVERNORS OF ASPULL CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Robust Accountability:

- Act as a critical friend, offering support and challenge, ensuring effective leadership holding the Headteacher and SLT to account.
- Drive School Improvement to enable Aspull Church Primary School to be the best that it can be.
- Enable effective communication with the school community including children, parents and carers.
- Undertake training and regular school visits to carry out our Governing Body role effectively.

Vision, Ethos & Strategic Direction:

- Ensure the safeguarding and wellbeing of every child who attend Aspull Church Primary School.
- Enhance the education of every child at Aspull Church Primary School, promoting outstanding teaching within a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Foster the Christian ethos of our joint church connections where every child is valued equally by God.
- Position Aspull Church Primary School at the heart of the community, strengthening and maintaining partnerships within our local, school and church communities.

Financial Performance:

- Ensure financial oversight, performance and robust financial management.
- Effective budget setting and monitoring to meet curriculum requirements.
- Ensure that money is well spent within Aspull Church Primary School.

HOW THE GOVERNING BODY WORKS WITH THE SCHOOL

- The Governing Body of Aspull Church Primary School has overall scope of responsibility and the day-to-day responsibility for ensuring financial control is delegated to the Head Teacher.
- The School Improvement Plan provides a key focus point for the Governing Body in fulfilling our functions, setting out the priorities and aims for the school to ensure the children have the opportunity to achieve the very best that they can. We use this information to ensure all our children make the best progress and achieve as highly as possible, and that resources are planned effectively.
- Governor visit key monitoring and evaluation findings are reported back to the whole governing body. These findings influence decisions made, to ensure that the children continue to access outstanding provision, teaching, learning and are kept safe and well looked after.
- Governors seek the views of parents, carers and staff during the year via questionnaires.

THE WORK WE HAVE DONE AS A GOVERNING BODY DURING 2025-26

Throughout the year the governing body has fulfilled its statutory duties in terms of monitoring the school's work and offering support and challenge. Key areas covered this year include:

- Overseeing the future strategic vision for the school.
- Approved staffing plans, ensuring the continued provision of a caring, nurturing environment where children can thrive.
- Agreed building improvement plans, ensuring the school environment remains safe, secure and fit for purpose now and in the future.
- Monitored SEND ensuring access and support for all students, supporting and strengthening the relationship between the SEND teacher and the Link Governors.
- Monitored pupil progress, attainment and behaviour, ensuring consistent standards are delivered throughout school to allow best possible outcomes for all children.
- Reviewed Pupil Premium expenditure, monitoring the attainment of recipients to make sure that appropriate support is provided, allowing all pupils to reach their full potential.

- Monitored Sports Premium expenditure, ensuring all children have access to an enriched and varied sports provision.
- Monitored curriculum delivery
- Played a full role in the OFSTED inspection, with 5 areas meeting “expected standard” and 2 areas being of “strong standard”.

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2026-27

- Continued monitoring and evaluation of School Development Plan priorities, ensuring the pursuit of excellence across all activities.
- Continued monitoring and evaluation of pupil achievement, ensuring the school is on track to fulfil our ambitious targets for all pupils.
- Continue SIAMS self-evaluation ensuring spirituality is woven throughout Aspull Church School and learning is rooted in the schools’ Christian ethos.
- Continued focus on SEND to ensure every child flourishes at ACPS.
- Continued focus on delivering a well-balanced, relevant and diverse curriculum ensuring Rosenshine Principals continue to be implemented through whole school.
- Continued focus on pupil and staff wellbeing at ACPS.
- Continued evaluation of the Governing Body structure and operational methods, to ensure statutory obligations and strategic functions are met, and that the Governing Body of ACPS reflects not just the community we serve but all communities.
- Continue to fully Carry out or Governing Board Development Plan for 2026-27 ensuring robust monitoring and evidence.
- Continue to live out the Aspull Church Primary School vision “We shine like stars to achieve and make a difference in the world, knowing that with God, all things are possible.”

REVIEWING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body completes an annual skills audit / self-assessment of our board. In 2026 the Governing Board played a full role in the Ofsted inspection. In 2024 the Governing Board played a full role in the SIAMS inspection, achieving the highest rating (J1) for the school.

Appendix 1: GOVERNORS' ATTENDANCE RECORD

Aspull Church Primary School
Attendance

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	Autumn 1 FGB 17 Sep 2025	Autumn 2 FGB 19 Nov 2025	Spring 1 FGB 28 Jan 2026	Spring 2 FGB 18 Mar 2026	Summer 1 FGB 29 Apr 2026	Summer 2 FGB 01 Jul 2026
Amy Appleton		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stephanie Bateson		Y					
Anna Ganley		Y	Y				
Victoria Griffiths	Observer	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tonianne Hewitt	Local Authority Governor		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Andrea Knight	Foundation governor	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Fay Lamb		Y	Y	N			
Jessica Lynch	Observer					Y	Y
Rebecca McCarren	Foundation governor	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Julie Oldham	Foundation Ex-Officio					Y	N
Hannah Power	Foundation governor	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kate Rigby	Parent governor		Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Howard Smout	Headteacher	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sarah Sutton	Foundation governor	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rev Richard Towle	Foundation Ex-Officio	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Heather Vaal	Staff governor		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nicola Louise Veitch-Lancaster	Foundation governor					Y	Y