

Annual Governance Statement 2025-2026 for the Governing Body of Albemarle Primary School

There are three parts to the Department for Education's expectations of school Governing Bodies:

- Maintenance of the school's strategic vision and direction;
- Performance management of the Headteacher;
- Ensuring that school finances are looked after and used well.

These involve holding the school to account and offering the informed support and encouragement, which will enable it to thrive and secure the highest levels of success for all the students entrusted to us.

A. Governance arrangements

There are a total of thirteen places on the Governing Body. During the last year a new Parent Governor Ghazala Jowhair was elected and Kate Bower joined as a Co-opted governor. Annette Watson continued as Chair of Governors and Kate Bower was appointed as Vice Chair. Rev Jack is moving away from the area at the start of the Autumn term so there will be a vacancy for a new Partnership Governor.

- 2 Parent governors

Mr Alessandro Ricevuti (term of office 06/07/2023 to 05/07/2027)

Ms Ghazala Jowhair (term of office 01/12/2025 to 30/11/2029) Ghazala resigned in September 2026.

- 1 Local Authority governor

Ms Chloe Horn (term of office 21/03/2024 to 20/03/2028)

- 1 Staff governor

Ms Jessie Maoza (term of office 06/01/2025 to 05/01/2029)

- 1 Head Teacher governor

Ms Emilie Haston (term of office 01/09/2026)

- 2 Partnership governors

Mr Will Pope (term of office 21/03/2024 to 20/03/2028)

Rev Giacomo (Jack) Belloli (term of office 05/12/2024 to 04/12/2028)

- 6 Co-opted governors

Ms Donna Goodsell (term of office 27/06/2024 to 26/06/2028)

Ms Catherine Pearson (term of office 02/03/2023 to 01/03/2027)

Mr Raghav Kapur (term of office 07/12/2023 to 06/12/2027)

Mr Jason McKinlay (term of office 05/12/2024 to 04/12/2028)

Ms Annette Watson (term of office 03/10/2024 to 02/10/2028)

Ms Kate Bower (term of office 02/10/2025 to 01/10/2029)

There are a range of requirements placed upon all governors:

- A commitment to the school's vision and ethos, and the success of all our children.
- Be available to attend both Full Governors and Committees Meetings
- A willingness to learn and a capacity to engage forensic curiosity and analytical skills.
- Good inter-personal skills, the ability to work professionally as part of a team and take collective responsibility for decisions.
- Adequate skills in literacy and numeracy to interrogate critical data.
- Both individually and collectively, be well informed, undergo induction and ongoing training and have clear areas of responsibility
- Health, welfare and safeguarding expertise and oversight.
- Informed insight into the needs of the local and regional economy.
- Understanding of Governance and senior management in schools.
- Expertise in strategic planning and project management.
- Specialist knowledge of Human Resource Management and legislation.

- Performance management and appraisal.
- High-level budget planning and strategic financial management.
- Management of premises and facilities.
- Links with the local business and community organisations.

There are termly meetings of the full Governing Body and two committees covering Resources and Curriculum and Safeguarding. Governors are required to undertake statutory training and in addition complete specialist training provided by the Local Authority, members of the school's leadership team, and accessing outside provision offered online to support them in their role. All governors are required to complete a variety of compliance activities including a declaration of their business or other personal interests. This is detailed in the Register of Business or Pecuniary Interests which is available on the school website.

B. Attendance record of governors

A record of our attendance at meetings is kept by the Clerk and is available on the school website. This is to ensure that all meetings are quorate (this means that more than fifty per cent of voting members must be in attendance) to ensure that decisions can be made. To date no meetings have failed to meet this quoracy requirement.

C. Central themes ongoing from year to year

Issues identified in our Self Evaluation Form (SEF) continue to inform our focus on:

1. Quality of Education
2. Behaviour and Attitudes
3. Personal Development
4. Leadership and Management
5. Quality of Education in Early Years
6. Overall Effectiveness

External advisors and Improvement Partners visit the school to ensure continued improvement and progress, and to provide support to our Head teacher. Members of the school's Leadership Team regularly attend Governing Body meetings to brief on their specific areas of responsibility, with Governors both supporting and challenging information given and initiatives in place to ensure continued progress and use of best practice. The School Development Plan and SEF are regularly reviewed by both the full Governing Body and committees both to understand strategy and to evaluate progress against priorities. The Safeguarding Link Governor meets regularly with the Designated Safeguarding Officer, with a standing Safeguarding item being included on full Governing Body agendas for generic reporting as appropriate.

D. A year of change

At the start of the 2025/26 academic year Ms Emilie Haston joined as the new Headteacher. The school's new ethos is complimented by a new set of values, referred to as the 5 Rs; Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Resourcefulness and Reflection. The School Development Plan (SDP) focuses on strengthening practice, securing excellence through building consistency, developing leadership and improving outcomes for every pupil. To achieve these goals the focus will be on building a high functioning organisation, delivering excellent teaching and learning, overcoming barriers and ensuring that pupils make a positive contribution to school life.

Progress has been made across several areas including the development of a strategy for Inclusion and SEND, enhancing the EYFS offering and in recognition that English is the bedrock for many subjects enhancing the leadership of English across all Year cohorts.

Governors have visited the school in their link governor roles to monitor how the school is delivering in achieving the objectives set out in the SDP and committees have also worked to hold the school to account through providing effective challenge in meetings. Governors have also sought opportunities to get to know staff and build links with the wider school community.

Attendance remains an area of focus and a robust framework is in place to support the management of this.

Following the engagement of Wandsworth Financial Services in the Summer of 2025 various financial issues were surfaced because of which the school has set a deficit financial budget for the financial year commencing 6th April 2026. Whilst this is not a position that the school wants to be in, the Wandsworth Finance Team are continuing to work with the school and are supportive of the steps that have been taken to address the shortfall. An experienced School Business Manager will also be joining at the start of the next academic year.

E. Curriculum & Safeguarding Committee

In 2025/26, the Curriculum and Safeguarding Committee revised its terms of reference, to more explicitly cover behaviour and to move consideration of safeguarding to the FGB.

Over the year, the committee focused specific meetings on behaviour and inclusion and on writing, as two key areas of the School Development Plan. Alongside, the committee carried out a deep dive into maths and held conversations looking in detail at attainment for KS1 and KS2, comparing our data against the national average and against other schools in Wandsworth.

The committee discussed progress in early years, reflecting on insights from the school's Link advisor.

The committee considered the challenges facing the school in relation to attendance, and the headteacher's focus on quality of teaching, including appraisal and CPD.

Several policies were discussed and approved, including PHSE (including RSHE policy), SEND policy, and policies on unsatisfactory performance for both teachers and support staff.

F. Resources

Over the past year, the Resources Committee has focused on strengthening financial oversight and supporting the school in addressing historic issues identified in its accounts, systems and controls. Working closely with the Headteacher, interim School Business Manager and Wandsworth, the focus has been on improving financial reporting, strengthening controls and supporting the development of a sustainable budget and recovery plan.

The Committee has also overseen staffing, risk management, health and safety, premises works and key policies, including revised lettings arrangements. It has been a demanding year, but the committee has worked constructively and robustly with the school and local authority to improve accountability and place the school on a more stable and sustainable footing.

The Governors look forward to supporting the school in the coming year and to getting to know those in the wider school community.

How to contact your Governing Body

Information about the board is available on the school website. You can contact us c/o the school:

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