

**Great Chart Primary School
Annual Governance Statement
Sept 2023**

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Great Chart Primary School

September 2023

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Great Chart Primary School's 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 Great Chart Primary School was reconstituted in January 2015 and is made up of 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 7 Co-opted governors. 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.

The full Governing Body meets 6 times a year, and we also have two groups: a Pay Panel and a Headteacher's Performance Management group. We also have panels that meet if required to consider pupil discipline, staffing matters and complaints.

Attendance record of governors

Governors have good 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 the school website for governors attendance record.

The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body

Governors have been focused on their core responsibilities but also during 2022-23 they have worked on the following:

1. Reviewed and revised the school vision statement
2. Developed a 3-5 year strategic plan for the school
3. Ensured governors communicate regularly with all stakeholders including staff, parents, pupils and the local community in order to understand their views and to communicate what the governors are doing.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing statutory school policies, and this year we have considered a number of key policies, including Health & Safety, Anti Bullying, Behaviour Management and Safeguarding.

Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the Governors' page of our website or you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings- www.great-chart.kent.sch.uk

	Members of the Governing Body visit the school to ensure everyone is aware of the school's strengths and areas of development. They also monitor the School Development Plan.
Future plans for the governors	<p>The Governing Body is looking forward to the year ahead ensuring the school continues to provide an outstanding education. We continue seeking ways to actively engage with the school in a variety of ways and to provide effective strategic direction. We will continue to ensure the premises are safe and secure. Please also see the school priorities below and on the website agreed by the Governing Body. These have been updated in September 2023 for the forthcoming year. For 2023-24 Governance priorities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operational v strategic - understanding the Governors' role 2. Ensure monitoring visits are effective and carried out consistently 3. Support the school in implementing the 5 Year Strategic Plan
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Windle, via the governance professional. You can see the full list of governors; minutes of governing body meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.
School Priorities	<p>The governors agreed the School Development Plan priorities for the next year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise the standards of writing throughout the school to reduce the data gap between reading and writing for all pupils. To increase the number of pupils achieving greater depth in writing. 2. Raise the standards of problem solving throughout the school to increase competency and retain skills for all pupils. To increase the number of pupils achieving the expected standard or above within reasoning and problem solving. 3. Further develop the foundation subjects and wider curriculum to ensure a coherent and consistent, progressive curriculum throughout the whole school, meeting the needs of ALL pupils. Develop AfL and assessment procedures to evaluate whether pupils know more and can do more, and whether the knowledge and skills learned are well sequenced and developed incrementally. 4. Within a positive and supportive environment staff continue to demonstrate a clear understanding of the needs of their pupils (particularly more complex cases) and ensure all children have access to high quality teaching, complemented with carefully selected interventions. 5. To raise communication and language skills across the EYFS curriculum in all areas of learning. To ensure children are given opportunities to use new language and develop new skills through child initiated and teacher directed opportunities. For staff to use and scaffold ambitious vocabulary in 'serve and return' conversations with the children. <p>Further details of the priorities for 2023/24 are available on the school website.</p>