

**Governing Body Impact Statement 2024/2025**

At Saighton Church of England Primary School and Pre-School the Headteacher and the Governing Board work closely to deliver our shared vision of ‘**Flourishing Together- Life In All Its Fullness (John 10:10)’**

The Governing Board of Saighton is committed to driving continuous improvement and ensuring the best possible outcomes for all pupils. This was recognised by our **GOOD** rating by Ofsted in October 2022 and through our 2024 SIAMs inspection.

*“Governors know the school well. They ask leaders challenging questions to understand how well the curriculum is helping pupils to know more and remember more.”* Ofsted 2022

*“Many staff and governors have accessed appropriate diocesan training thus strengthening their understanding of being an effective church school. Decisions made by the leaders stem from the vision. This results in adults and pupils having a strong sense of belonging and a flourishing school community.”* SIAMS 2024

The Governing Body recognises the importance of addressing the expectations of parents and carers, particularly regarding the leadership and management of the school and its impact on pupil safety, academic achievement, and enjoyment of learning. Accordingly, governors undertake regular evaluations of their contribution to the life and strategic direction of the school. They remain committed to ensuring transparency by publishing all relevant information for the benefit of interested stakeholders.

This statement outlines the impact of our work over the past academic year.

1. **The Role of the Governing Body**

Governors are responsible for three core strategic functions:

* 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 ensuring effective use of resources

1. **Governance Structure**

The GB consists of 14 appointed and elected governors:

* 7 Foundation (Church) Governors;
* 1 Co-opted Governor;
* 1 Headteacher Governor;
* 1 Ex-officio Governor;
* 1 Staff Governor;
* 2 Parent Governors;
* 1 Local Authority Governor

There are currently 3 vacant posts. Governors meet on a termly basis as a full governing body and in smaller groups (committees), which oversee particular aspects of the School.

1. **Full Governing Body meetings**

At each meeting of the Governing Body (GB), the following procedures are undertaken to ensure rigorous oversight and strategic direction:

* **Headteacher’s Report**
  + The Headteacher provides a comprehensive written report detailing progress across all areas of the School Development Plan (SDP), alongside updates on pupil attendance, behaviour, safeguarding, and staff professional development.
  + Governors are expected to scrutinise the report thoroughly, posing questions and offering challenge to ensure accountability and continuous improvement.
* **Committee Reports**
  + Each GB committee presents a summary of its recent meetings.
  + This allows all governors to engage in discussion and raise questions regarding any matters arising from committee work.
* **Policy and Statutory Document Review**
  + School policies and statutory documents are reviewed systematically.
  + This includes documents approved at committee level and those requiring ratification by the full Governing Body.
* **Curriculum Leader Presentations**
  + Curriculum leaders for English, Mathematics, and Science deliver presentations outlining subject-specific priorities and progress.
  + These sessions are followed by a question-and-answer segment to facilitate governor engagement and challenge.
* **Focused Scrutiny of SDP Priorities**
  + Subject leaders present on specific areas of the SDP that the Governing Body has identified for detailed scrutiny, such as the implementation of Maths no Problem or reviewing the new RE scheme, Questful.
  + These presentations support governors in monitoring targeted school improvement initiatives.

1. **Committees**

The GB is split into smaller committees that also meet on a termly basis. Below is an outline of the typical remit of each committee as well as specific highlights from work carried out in the last year.

**Curriculum & Standards Committee:**

Governors on the Curriculum & Standards Committee have made a measurable impact through their strategic oversight of both pupil outcomes and staffing. Their contributions include:

* **Monitoring pupil progress and achievement** by analysing internal and external performance data, enabling tracking of all pupil groups against local and national benchmarks.
* **Challenging and supporting the school** to ensure effective use of the pupil premium grant, with a focus on improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.
* **Scrutinising provision for children with SEND**, evaluating the effectiveness of interventions and ensuring statutory responsibilities are met.
* **Reviewing comparative attainment and progress** across different groups, including those defined by ethnicity, gender, ability, and SEND status.
* **Reflecting on external input** from the School Improvement Partner to inform strategic decisions and support continuous improvement.
* **Contributing to and evaluating the School Development Plan**, ensuring alignment with school priorities and national expectations.

In relation to staffing, governors have:

* **Reviewed the staffing structure annually**, ensuring it supports high-quality teaching and learning and aligns with the School Development Plan.
* **Monitored staff development and performance**, ensuring that appraisal objectives and CPD are linked to school improvement priorities.
* **Led the Headteacher’s performance management**, ensuring accountability and support for leadership development.
* **Overseen recruitment and employment practices**, ensuring fairness, legal compliance, and adherence to principles of good employment.

**Finance Committee:**

Governors on the Resources Committee have made a significant impact by ensuring the school’s financial health and compliance. Their work includes:

* **Holding the Headteacher to account** for the financial performance of the school through regular scrutiny and challenge.
* **Bringing professional expertise** to financial discussions, supporting effective budget management and long-term financial planning.
* **Working collaboratively** with the School Bursar and the LA Finance Officer to ensure robust financial oversight, including 6 review meetings each school year.
* **Monitoring compliance** with:
  + Local Authority financial regulations
  + School finance policies and procurement codes
  + Department for Education (DfE) requirements
  + School’s Financial Value Standard (SFVS)
* **Responding to audit findings** and SFVS reviews, ensuring that any issues are addressed promptly and appropriately.

Like many schools across the authority and nationally, Saighton is facing financial pressures. In addition to their broad statutory duties, this year the governors have also:

* Led strategic discussions with the Local Authority regarding the school’s financial position;
* Reviewed and approved recommendations on staffing options to help reduce the deficit;
* Agreed on a change of PAN for the forthcoming year to increase funding streams into the school;
* Collaborated with the Headteacher and School Business Manager on the Note of Caution application to the Local Authority.

**Health, Safety and Safeguarding Committee:**

The Health, Safety & Safeguarding committee ensures that the school adheres to all relevant health and safety legislation and internal policies. This includes verifying that staff, pupils, and visitors are not exposed to avoidable risks.

**Reviewing Risk Assessments**  
The committee reviews risk assessments carried out across the school. It ensures that significant findings are properly documented and that appropriate actions are taken to address any identified risks. Governors have responsibility for:

* **Overseeing Risk Management**  
  The committee supports the implementation and monitoring of effective risk management strategies. This includes introducing measures to mitigate risks and regularly evaluating their effectiveness.
* **Premises Management Oversight**  
  The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school premises are safe, secure, and well-maintained. This includes:
* Monitoring the condition of buildings and grounds.
* Ensuring statutory inspections and maintenance are carried out (e.g. fire safety, electrical testing, asbestos management).
* Supporting strategic decisions around premises development and refurbishment.
* Ensuring accessibility and compliance with relevant regulations (e.g. Equality Act 2010).
* **Safeguarding Overview**  
  The committee plays a key role in overseeing safeguarding arrangements within the school. This includes:
* Ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and regularly reviewed.
* Monitoring staff training and awareness of safeguarding responsibilities.
* Reviewing safeguarding incidents and ensuring appropriate actions are taken.
* Ensuring that safer recruitment practices are followed.
* Liaising with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) to stay informed of current issues and trends.
* **Reporting to the Full Governing Board**  
  The committee provides regular updates to the governing board on health and safety, premises, and safeguarding matters. Reports include any issues identified, actions taken, achievements, and decisions made.

1. **School Development Plan**

Governors maintain regular oversight of the School Development Plan (SDP) throughout the academic year. They receive detailed progress reports from the Headteacher during both full Governing Body (GB) meetings and relevant committee sessions.

To evaluate progress toward the SDP’s strategic targets and goals, governors draw on a range of evidence, including:

* **Internal and external performance data**
* **Discussions regarding pupil progress and attainment**
* **Findings from external validation processes**

This comprehensive approach enables governors to assess the effectiveness of school initiatives and their own impact.

1. **Governor Attendance & Involvement**

Governor attendance at meetings remains consistently high, with all sessions throughout the year being quorate. Governor attendance records are published annually on the school website to ensure transparency and accountability.

Beyond their formal duties at Full Governing Body and committee meetings, Governors actively participate in the life of the school through a wide range of informal visits. These include attending worship in school, church services at both of our Parish churches, carol concerts, celebration assemblies, school productions, and fundraising events. Their involvement extends to supporting school trips and contributing to staff recruitment, often serving on interview panels.

This ongoing commitment reflects the Governors’ dedication to fostering a strong, supportive school community and ensuring the best outcomes for pupils and staff alike.

If you wish to contact the governing board regarding any aspect of this impact statement please direct all correspondence via claire.russell@edsential.co.uk