



Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Aston Rowant CE Primary School
September 2023

As the Board of Governors of Aston Rowant, we are proud of the school, its staff and its pupils.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Board of Governors of Aston Rowant CE Primary School 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

At Aston Rowant, we recruit governors with appropriate skills and experiences to enable the board of governors as a whole to operate effectively. Governors are appointed, independent and have equal status with each other. Our Board of Governors, which meets at least 6 times per year, is made up of 9 governors from the following election or nomination routes;

- Headteacher (1)
- Staff (1) – Elected by staff members
- Parent (2) – Elected by parents of children attending the school
- Foundation (2) – Nominated by the Diocese of Oxford
- Local Authority (1) – Nominated by Oxfordshire County Council
- Co-opt (2) – 2 further governors appointed by the governing body with the appropriate skills and commitment.

A professional Clerk is appointed, who is responsible for arranging meetings, taking minutes and advising on procedural matters, and plays a key role in the work of the Board. A Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually by the Board of Governors and work closely with the Headteacher and Clerk.

All governors have a four-year term of office, except the Headteacher, where the term of office is the period of employment. Governors may be disqualified for failing to attend a meeting of the full governing body for six months from the date of the first meeting missed.

The governing body may also appoint Associate Governors; people who do not sit on the full governing body, but who have specific skills to assist the governing body in specific circumstances.

The majority of business is conducted at the full board level, with reports from committees, working groups and link governors, as we feel this structure allows governors to take a broader, more informed, holistic view of the school, allows for better staff work/life balance due to the reduction of evening meetings, avoids repetition and better matches governor skills and interests.



	<p>We have a Finance Committee, Teaching & Learning Committee, Headteacher’s Appraisal Panel (supported by an external adviser) and a Pay Panel. Other panels may be convened as required.</p> <p>Much of the work of the governors may take place in small working groups or as formal monitoring visits, allowing different aspects of the school to be looked at in more detail. The Chair meets regularly with the Headteacher and Clerk. In addition, governors may visit informally supporting school events such as performances and sports day, collective worship, church services and parent information sessions.</p> <p>Governors have specific responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum and Achievement • SEND (including Pupil Premium) • Ethos/SIAMS • Wellbeing (Safeguarding and Health and Safety) • Finance and Resources <p>Governors report on their activities at each Full Board of Governors meeting. From this the progress in the delivery of agreed school priority areas can be actively monitored and impact on the education and outcomes of the pupils more effectively assessed.</p> <p>Committees have clear terms of reference and all Governors abide by a Code of Conduct. All Governors undertake a DBS check.</p>
<p>Attendance record of governors</p>	<p>We have a committed group of Governors who regularly visit school and have excellent attendance at meetings. All meetings are “quorate” (the minimum number of governors needed to be present to ensure that legal decisions can be made).</p> <p>We are committed to operating in a transparent manner. The full list of governors; their attendance at meetings, relevant disclosures, and more information about our activities are published on the school website.</p>
<p>Skills and Knowledge Development</p>	<p>The Board recognises that to effectively fulfil its role it must ensure that collectively Governors have the required skills and knowledge to support the school.</p> <p>Regular skills audits, aligned to the DfE Competency Framework for Governance (January 2017) and annual self-evaluation is undertaken, to inform training, development and recruitment.</p> <p>The Board is supported with training and advice by Oxfordshire Governor Services and the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education and it ensures that Governors undertake the required Safeguarding, PREVENT and Safer Recruitment training. All new governors follow an induction programme and participate in regular ongoing training.</p>



	<p>Governors also look externally to collaborate and learn from other contexts. Governors may participate in networks through the Oxford Diocese RIGHT network, the Oxfordshire Governors Association and the Thame Partnership of Schools.</p> <p>Governors have subscriptions to the National Governance Association and GovernorHub, and use this and other relevant information channels to ensure it remains abreast of relevant developments in the education sector.</p>
<p>The work that we have done</p>	<p>In preparation for the new academic year, the Board evaluates the annual School Development Plan and reviews the School Self Evaluation (SEF) progress against achieving the longer-term Vision and Values. Taking into account the results of monitoring and inspections by Ofsted and SIAMS, with input from parents, staff, children and the community, the SEF is updated and a new School Development Plan is then put in place. This annual planning document is used to identify the key areas on which the school and the Board of Governors wish to focus on during the year and includes milestones and impact indicators to enable monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Governors visit the school regularly to monitor the priorities in the school development plan, subject leaders are invited to present the achievements, progress, results and targets for their areas, external input is sought through our School Improvement Partners and through the Thame Partnership of Schools, and the pupil voice is heard through the school council.</p> <p>Subject leaders present to the board of governors and provide update reports, to enable governors to monitor developments in the national curriculum and specific curriculum related development targets; and to ensure that the school’s curriculum is broad and balanced.</p> <p>Data from a variety of sources, including government data (ASP), SATS/Phonics check results and the outcomes from internal assessment, showing pupil achievement and progress against the ambitious targets set for each child.</p> <p>Particular groups of children are also monitored to ensure that provision is in place to; challenge the more able, support those in danger of falling behind and secure positive outcomes for disadvantaged children through the effective use of the pupil premium grant. A designated governor monitors the provision for children with SEND.</p> <p>The Board of Governors regularly discusses pupil progress and attainment, to ensure that the school is on track to secure positive and ambitious outcomes for all children.</p>



	<p>The wellbeing of children at the school and providing a safe and secure environment for pupils and staff is of paramount importance to us. The designated governor monitors Health and Safety checks termly, gives a termly report to the governors about any Safeguarding matters, monitors staff wellbeing and pupil and staff mental health.</p> <p>Our Foundation Governors support the school in maintaining and developing its deeply Christian nature, our Christian vision and values and that the school contributes to community cohesion.</p> <p>This year all Governors will spend dedicated time considering the contents of a number of documents on the specific context of our school and how effectively the school meets the Church of England’s Vision for Education, the updated framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and the contents of the Valuing all God’s Children report.</p> <p>Governors consider the impact of spirituality and the Christian ethos in their monitoring of all aspects of the school to ensure it remains a fundamental part of the school, deeply embedded in all areas and meets the needs of all learners.</p> <p>Governors work closely with the Headteacher and other members of staff to ensure that the budget is well managed, the school premises maintained and value for money is achieved for specific grants that the school receives, such as the PE and Sport premium funding. This year ongoing pupil numbers and the national agenda for academisation will be actively investigated and monitored.</p> <p>Governors ensure that effective performance management is in place for the Headteacher and staff, that CPD is a priority and that there is a clear link between performance and remuneration.</p> <p>As a Board of Governors, we are also committed to our own development and regularly review our own performance, undertake skills analysis, attend relevant training and briefings, share experiences with governors in other schools and participate in the Thame Partnership of Schools.</p> <p>Governors review, discuss, agree and where appropriate update all school policies according to a predetermined schedule. The key statutory policies are all available on the school website.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>The Board of Governors is focused on supporting the continuous improvement of the school through the school development plan, to fulfil our vision of “Growing together we inspire each other to achieve our full potential as courageous lifelong learners. ‘Let your roots grow down into him and let your lives be built on him (Colossians 2:7’.</p>



How you can contact the governing body	<p>We always welcome feedback from parents and our community. Governors link with members of the local church and community groups, such as the Parish Council, and are often present at school events or parent information events, so please do come and talk to us!</p> <p>There is a formal opportunity to let us know how we are doing through the Annual Parent Survey or you can contact us to discuss any aspect of governance at any time through the school office or by email to chair@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.</p>
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