

**Sladefield Infant School**

**Annual Governance Statement - 2025/2026 Academic Year**

All schools in England have a Governing Body which is responsible for overseeing many of the strategic decisions of the school.

As defined by the Department for Education (DfE) in The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013, the core functions of the Governing Body include:

* ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
* holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and performance management of staff
* oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure money is well spent

 In exercising their functions, the Governing Body shall:

* act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the school
* be open about the decisions they make and the actions they take and, in particular, be prepared to explain their decisions and actions to interested parties

Our Governing Body has a Code of Conduct which is reviewed and agreed annually.  All Governors and Associate Members are obliged to abide by this code.

A key role is to act as a ‘critical friend’: to support; to challenge; to ask questions; ultimately to represent the school community. Our Governing Body is composed of volunteers who are interested in the continued progress of Sladefield Infant School and in ensuring the best possible education for the children in our school.

The Governing Body at Sladefield Infant School works in close partnership with the Head Teacher, staff and the Local Authority. Whilst the Head Teacher is, of course, responsible for the day to day running of the school, the Governors are involved with such things as staffing, curriculum, school buildings and finance. It ensures the school functions well and maintains the proper range of academic and social objectives.

**Sladefield Infant School Board of Governors**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Type of Governor | Current term of office start | Current term of office expires |
| Mr Alex Tracy | Co-opted, Chair of Governors | 29th January 2022 | 29th January 2026 |
| Mr Rob Meadows | Head Teacher | N/A | N/A |
| Mrs Nicola Connolly | Staff, Deputy Head Teacher | 24th January 2022 | 24th January 2026 |
| Mrs Kelly Greaves | Co-opted | 8th October 2023 | 8th October 2027 |
| Rev Ruth Donegan-Cross | Co-opted | 12th January 2025 | 12th January 2029 |
| Mrs Susanne Humpage | Co-opted | 7th October 2025 | 7th October 2029 |
| Mr Harris Khaliq | Parent | 7th October 2025 | 7th October 2029 |
| Mrs Nousheen Asghar Choudhry | Parent | 7th October 2025 | 7th October 2029 |
| Mr Chris Osborn | Clerk to Governing Body | N/A | N/A |
| Mrs Helen Mallard | Associate Member, School Business Manager | N/A | N/A |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Committees | Governor(s) | Committees | Governor(s) |
| Finance & Staffing | Mr Rob Meadows  Mr Alex Tracy, Vice Chair  Mrs Kelly Greaves  Mrs Susanne Humpage  Mrs Nousheen Asghar Choudhry  Mrs Helen Mallard (in attendance) | H/T Performance Management | Mr Alex Tracy  Mr Harris Khaliq  Mrs Kelly Greaves |
| Staff Dismissal | As required |
| Appeals |
| Link Training | Mrs Nicola Connolly |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Governor Areas of Responsibility** | | | |
| **Area** | **Governor** | **Subject** | **Governor** |
| Safeguarding | Mrs Kelly Greaves | English | Mrs Susanne Humpage |
| Health & Safety | Mrs Susanne Humpage | Maths | Mrs Kelly Greaves |
| Financial (inc. Pupil/Sports Premium) | Mr Alex Tracy | Science | Mrs Nousheen Asghar Choudhry |
| Inclusion | Mrs Nicola Connolly | Computing | Mr Harris Khaliq |
| Behaviour | Rev Ruth Donegan-Cross | PE | Mrs Nicola Connolly |
| Attendance | Mr Harris Khaliq | RE & PHSE | Rev Ruth Donegan-Cross |
| Mental Health | Mrs Nousheen Asghar Choudhry | Topic | Mr Alex Tracy |

The Governing Body has appointed a professional Clerk who is responsible for arranging meetings, taking minutes, and following up on all actions. The Clerk also advises on procedural matters where necessary.

The full Governing Body meets at least once a term. The Governing Body has a sub-committee for Finance & Staffing; this committee meets at least once a term and reports back to the full Governing Body. This enables the whole Governing Body to take a broader and more informed holistic view of the school.

In addition, the Governors arrange targeted term-time visits that look at specific areas and subjects, as detailed in the table above. Specific monitoring is undertaken for the areas of Health and Safety and Safeguarding. After each visit, a formal report is prepared and presented at the next Governing Body meeting.

The Governing Body and the Finance & Staffing Committee have clear terms of reference and all Governors are required to abide by a Code of Conduct. Governors are volunteers and receive no payment for what they do although they can claim expenses.

**Attendance Record of Governors**

Full attendance records can be found on the school website, under Key Information, Governors section.

**Governing Body Effectiveness and Impact**

The work carried out by the Governors in 2024/25 Academic Year:

* Ensure that the school is maintaining progress against the School Development Plan
* Completed the Head Teacher’s Performance Management review and supported the Head Teacher in ensuring progress against the targets set.
* Carried out termly visits to support the staff and children in line with their areas of responsibility.
* Supported the Senior Leadership Team with staffing issues.
* Supported trainee teachers in their placements.
* Closely monitored the school’s safeguarding procedures to ensure that they are robust.
* Reviewed and monitored the current budget on a termly basis, and worked with the school’s Head Teacher and Schools Business Manager to ensure rigorous financial controls are in place, including approving the School Financial Value Standard.
* Overseen the Health & Safety and maintenance of the school grounds and buildings.

The 2024/25 Academic Year School Development Plan targets are as follows:

Quality of Education

* To embed the Oracy Curriculum and extend it to the wider school community.
* To continue to embed the Maths Mastery Programme.
* To continue to ensure the SEN provision is appropriate and effective, including re-establishing the enhanced provision classrooms, and offering a bespoke training package for staff.
* To continue to improve handwriting standards across the school when writing for all purposes.
* To consider ways to improve boys’ attainment in core subjects.

Behaviour & Attitudes

* To continue to develop strategies to enable pupils to be more independent learners, including those pupils with SEN.
* To become re-accredited as a Gold Rights Respecting School Award school.

Personal Development

* To develop trauma-informed approaches for all staff so that identified children can be better supported to develop on a personal level.

Leadership & Management

* To further develop short term curriculum design and delivery of lessons based on agreed planning.
* To ensure outcomes from monitoring (through Pupil Book Study) are used to inform future planning.
* To gain The Wellbeing Award for Schools.
* To continue to ensure cyber security and digital technology is effective across the school.
* To continue to consider ways to ensure that the school is in a financially positive situation over time.
* To gain an Arts Mark Award (Gold or Platinum)

EYFS

* To develop curriculum design and planning to ensure it is fit-for-purpose for EYFS.
* To ensure that provision is in line with any new statutory guidance provided (such as new Safeguarding / Nutrition guidance).