



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	29 th January 2022	29 th January 2026
Mr Rob Meadows	Head Teacher	N/A	N/A
Mrs Nicola Connolly	Staff, Deputy Head Teacher	24 th January 2022	24 th January 2026
Miss Kelly Jordan	Co-opted	8 th October 2023	8 th October 2027
Rev Ruth Donegan-Cross	Co-opted	12 th January 2025	12 th January 2029
Mrs Susanne Humpage	Co-opted	7 th October 2025	7 th October 2029
Mr Harris Khaliq	Parent	7 th October 2025	7 th October 2029
Mrs Nousheen Asghar Choudhry	Parent	7 th October 2025	7 th 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).