



‘I can do all things through God, who gives me strength.’

Philippians 4:13

Newton Solney Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Infant School

Governors’ Annual Statement 2024/25

The roles of the governing body of Newton Solney C of E (VA) Infant School are:

1. To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school.
2. To hold the Headteacher to account for the educational achievement of the pupils at the school.
3. To oversee the financial performance of the school and to ensure money is well spent.

The Governing Body is made up of 12 Governors:

Staff Governors

Mrs Davinia Gamble (Headteacher)

Rebecca Ryan

Parent Governors

Mrs Fran Bell

Mr Andrew Groves

Local Authority Governor

Ms Aimee Flower

Foundation Governors

Rev’d Steve Short (Ex Officio)

Mrs Jaide Meyrick – Chair

Mr Martin Duke- Vice Chair

Mrs Jane Thompson

Mrs Mary Norman

Mrs Jennifer Ward

Miss Phillippa Owen

The full Governing Body meets twice each term. There are six committees which meet separately to consider particular aspects of the school’s organisation and performance. They are:

Resources – to set the staffing and the school budget.

Mrs Davinia Gamble

Mrs Jane Thompson

Mrs Jaide Meyrick

Mr Martin Duke

Ms Aimee Flower

Mrs Mary Norman

Teaching and Learning – to look at the effectiveness of the teaching and the performance of the pupils.

Mrs Davinia Gamble
Miss Phillippa Owen
Mrs Jaide Meyrick
Mrs Jennifer Ward
Mrs Fran Bell
Mr Andrew Groves

Performance Management – to set and monitor the headteacher's objectives.

Mrs Jane Thompson
Mrs Jaide Meyrick
Mrs Mary Norman

Health and Safety - to ensure that the risks are well managed in school.

Mrs Davinia Gamble
Mrs Mary Norman

SEN – to oversee the arrangements for pupils with special needs.

Mrs Davinia Gamble
Mrs Rebecca Ryan (SENDCo)
Mrs Jaide Meyrick

Safeguarding – monitor safety and overall wellbeing of pupils.

Mrs Davinia Gamble
Mrs Jennifer Ward

What we do as Governors

We have a strategic role within the school, which means that we are not involved in the day-to-day management of the school, which is the responsibility of the Headteacher and her staff. We are expected to play the part of a 'critical friend'. This means striking the right balance between challenge and support. In this role we question and suggest refinements to the proposals and policies of the school. We are involved in appointing staff and dealing with any matters which could involve appeals and we are responsible for the School Budget. We keep abreast of current developments in education through the Derbyshire County Council and Diocesan governor training briefings. We have also completed a skills audit within the Governing Body and ensured that Governors are allocated to appropriate committees.

Work done by the governors in 2024/2025

- Safeguarding
- Meeting with SIAMS inspector during the school inspection
- Parent Questionnaire
- Monitoring Attendance
- Budget
- School Improvement Plan
- School Buildings Maintenance
- Marketing

The governor with responsibility for Safeguarding regularly reviewed safeguarding issues in the school and discussed them with the Headteacher.

As part of the school inspection by SIAMS, governors met with the inspector in January 2025.

The parents' questionnaire has been reviewed, with very positive results, showing children feel safe and enjoy being at school. As a result of the responses parents have been given extra information regarding mixed classes. We have also sent out information introducing our SEND and Mental Health Leads.

The children's questionnaire has been reviewed which was also very positive. As a result we held a teddy bears picnic in the summer following a request from a child.

Attendance has been monitored and the new national guidance and rules have been implemented.

The Resources Committee has set the school budget and monitored projected pupil numbers.

We have been involved in the setting of the School Improvement Plan, which continues to focus on the further development of good teaching in the school, increasing the level of challenge for the more able in lessons and preparing for the SIAMS inspection.

Governors have monitored projected pupil numbers and have been involved in a range of marketing initiatives, for example the Forest School Open Morning and rewriting the school handbook.

All committees have read and approved a wide range of school policies.

How to contact us

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. If you wish to contact us please use the following email address.

info@newtonsolney.derbyshire.sch.uk