



‘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 2023/24

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 Heidi Elks (Headteacher, until December 2023)

Mrs Davinia Gamble (Staff Governor until December 2023, Acting Headteacher January 2023 – April 2023, Headteacher April 2023 onwards)

Rebecca Ryan (January 2023 onwards)

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

Mrs Jane Thompson

Mrs Mary Norman

Mr Martin Duke

Mrs Jennifer Ward

Vacancy

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 Heidi Elks/Mrs Davinia Gamble

Mrs Jane Thompson

Mrs Jaide Meyrick

Mr Martin Duke

Ms Aimee Flower

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

Mrs Davinia Gamble

Mrs Mary Norman

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 Heidi Elks/Mrs Davinia Gamble

Mrs Mary Norman

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

Mrs Heidi Elks/Mrs Davinia Gamble

Mrs Rebecca Ryan (SENDCo)

Mrs Jane Thompson

Safeguarding – monitor safety and overall wellbeing of pupils.

Mrs Heidi Elks/Mrs Davinia Gamble

Mrs Jane Thompson/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 2023/2024

- Safeguarding
- Appointment of new Headteacher
- Meeting with Ofsted 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.

Following the retirement of Mrs Heidi Elks as Headteacher, at the end of 2023, Governors were very pleased to appoint Mrs Davinia Gamble as our new Headteacher.

As part of the school inspection by Ofsted, governors met with the inspectors in October 2023.

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, additional clubs have been arranged to run after school, options for online spelling practise are being considered and plans have been made for additional signage.

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 focuses on the further development of good teaching in the school, increasing the level of challenge for the more able in lessons and reviewing the effectiveness of the new 'Sounds Write' phonics scheme.

Governors have monitored projected pupil numbers and have been involved in a range of marketing initiatives, for example the Forest School Open Morning and setting up of our Instagram and Facebook profiles.

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