

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Riverside Primary School
September 2025**

In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Riverside Primary School Governing Body 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

The Governing Body of Riverside Primary School is made up of 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 5 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 6 Co-opted governors. The Governing Body has the spread of skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. We have a Resources Committee, which focuses on finance, premises and personnel matters; a Curriculum and Pupil Related Committee which focuses on the educational performance and wellbeing of pupils, and a Pay and Performance Committee. We also have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

The Governing Body very much appreciates the continuing work of the PTA in supporting the school and fundraising and the parent/carer and other volunteers who support the school’s swimming activities, reading and many other important roles.

Attendance record of governors

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). Governors have also

	<p>completed training provided by the Local Authority, DfE and other agencies.</p>
<p>The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body</p>	<p>The Governing Body has a very good working relationship with the Headteacher and this year we have continued to ensure that we hold the school to account as a critical friend. The Local Authority School Effectiveness Partner has also given informed challenge to governors to ensure that the challenge they provide to the Headteacher is refined and robust. We have continued to share, support, and monitor the ongoing focus on school improvement. Aspirations for all pupils are shared by staff and governors and have been evidenced by the pupils' hard work, progress and achievements. The Curriculum and Pupil Related Committee has monitored the outcomes of the curriculum and assessment system, the new EYFS curriculum and the arrangements for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), all of which are embedded across the school. The national focus on early reading has been included in the curriculum across EYFS and Key Stage 1. The Talk for Writing scheme has been implemented across the whole school this year and the data for outcome has shown significant improvements in writing.</p> <p>Governors also discuss key data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. This also includes looking at how parents/carers are kept informed of their child's achievements and progress. We continuously monitor our "vulnerable groups" of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes. The use of the Sports Premium funding is also monitored. An important ongoing successful commitment has been to staff and pupil wellbeing with the implementation of the Trauma Perceptive Practice approach and Mindful Minis initiative for pupils and staff wellbeing champions and policies for staff.</p> <p>Governors have monitored the OPAL Scheme (Outdoor Play And Learning) which provides outdoor play and creative activities at lunchtime during all weathers. The children</p>

thoroughly enjoy this and those who have problems regulating their behaviour have really benefitted. We have seen a reduction in behaviour incidents. The Governing Body would like to thank all parents/carers and members of the community for all their donations to the scheme.

The Resources Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget to support raising the standards of pupils' achievements. The outcomes of termly Health and Safety checks, together with necessary actions, are reported to the committee. Governors are particularly focussed on safeguarding (including Child Protection, Health & Safety and E-safety) and we have a Nominated Governor for Safeguarding who gives a report to the governors at every meeting about any safeguarding matters. Early in the summer term, the Resources Committee approved the 2025/26 budget plan for the school. In common with all schools, funding is tight because of national restrictions, cost of living and energy costs and so careful controls will be required. However, the required number of staff for 2025/26 will be in place, including a teacher who is also a SENCO (special educational needs co-ordinator). The main premises project this year has been the completion of the installation of LED lighting which has been funded mainly by the Local Authority.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have considered a number of key policies, including Child Protection and Safeguarding, E-safety and the Equality Scheme.

The important monitoring of attendance continues and governors have been kept informed of the strategies in place to support families to ensure that children can attend school. This has been successful.

Governors have been very impressed by the education provided for all pupils and the overall commitment to

	<p>safeguarding, wellbeing, inclusion, and pastoral care. The leadership and staff have shown exemplary commitment to ensure the ongoing educational recovery for all pupils following the pandemic. Governors receive continuing data for achievement and progress throughout the year and we have seen some very impressive improvements. Governors also visit the school to report on specific subjects and report back to the Governing Body on their findings.</p> <p>As always, we very much appreciate all the support we get from parents/carers and the school community.</p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings (nonconfidential sections) are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>The Governing Body is looking forward to supporting the Headteacher and her team to reach their aspirational targets. We will be monitoring the school’s implementation of the existing broad and balanced curriculum to become more integrated, creative and engaging. The aim is to inspire pupils and improve their knowledge and experience in readiness for secondary school.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing body</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office. Our page is on the web site.</p>