

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery 2022-2023

“All different, all equal, all learning”

In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery Governing Board 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 Board of Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery was reconstituted in 2014 and is now made up of two staff governors (including the Headteacher), two elected Parent Governors, one Local Authority Governor (currently vacant) and seven Co-opted governors (12 governors in total). Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the governing board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. On our Governing Board three of the Co-opted governors are parents, one is a staff member and the remaining three are members of the local community. Governors are required to adhere to a Code of Conduct and, to ensure transparency, declare any business interests. A list of governors and their business interests are shown on page 7.

The full Governing Board meets once each half-term and conducts all business of the governing board. We do not have committees but instead use Lead Governors if an issue needs to be reviewed in detail. Lead Governors report to the Governing Board and only have authority to make decisions if agreed in advance by the Governing Board (this excludes any statutory decisions which can only be decided by the full Governing Board). We have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters. The Terms of Reference for the Governing Board and these committees are available on the school’s website.

Individual governors take responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the school to ensure that we meet statutory requirements (such as Safeguarding and provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs) and that we deliver against the areas we ourselves identify in our school improvement and development plan. Governors are required to complete monitoring reports which are circulated to the Governing Board for consideration and action as required. See p6 for a list of monitoring roles.

<p>Attendance record of governors</p>	<p>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). See p8 for details of individual governors’ attendance at meetings.</p>
<p>The work that we have done in the governing board</p>	<p>The Governing Board has had a particularly busy year, focusing on school improvement, how the school responds post the covid pandemic particularly to gaps in learning and knowledge. The Governing Board has supported senior leaders to redevelop and redefine the curriculum to ensure it meets the new Ofsted framework and is implemented across the provision.</p> <p>The Governing Board has overseen the significant investment and redevelopment of the premises including new playgrounds, an outside area for nursery and KS1, a running track and internal reconfigurations to create a café for staff use and outreach to the community. These improvements ensure Ashleigh is secure in its ongoing development, fit for purpose as a community asset and place to work, has premium education facilities and will continue to be the school of choice for Wymondham residents and beyond.</p> <p>In terms of school improvement the Governing Board has used its aims and values for the school (developed following consultation with parents and pupils), along with a review of pupil attainment and achievement data, to identify priority areas for our school improvement and development plan. These priorities ensure that we continue to provide excellent learning opportunities for our children to enable each of them to “shine”. These priorities are to support the schools improvement and development plan.</p>

Other duties of the Governing Board

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The Governing Board looks at the maintenance and development of the school premise and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget. Our Health and Safety Governor carries out termly checks of the premises with the school's site manager.

Governors also closely monitor safeguarding and we have a Nominated Governor for Safeguarding who gives a termly report to the governors about any safeguarding matters. As well as regular self-review, the Governing Board also sought an external perspective and commissioned a further external review of safeguarding in February 2018, which found provision to be Outstanding.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have carefully reviewed a comprehensive range of policies, and ensured the school is meeting requirements. Operational updates of the school's policies is being carried out by the Office Manager with one governor's role to oversee.

The Governing Board annually fully reviews its effectiveness and skill set to identify areas where governance is strong and where improvement may be required. Governors have full access to training courses offered by Educator Solutions and the governing board sets aside time at every FGB meeting to share and review learning to ensure that we are providing the best leadership and governance that we can.

The Governing Board agrees a timetable of monitoring and evaluation, linked to the improvement priorities in the school development and improvement plan. All governors annually visit the school as part of "deep dive day" to review progress in delivering improvements and visit the school on a half termly/termly monitoring visit linked to their individual or committee responsibility.

In addition, the Governing Board uses external reviews to provide independent assessment of provision within the school. The findings of assessment visits have all commented on Outstanding provision, and any suggestions for improvement have been followed up and actioned as appropriate.

Minutes of Governing Board and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings, and Governors are currently reviewing the use of the school website to make them even more accessible.

<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>The Governing Board have discussed the issue of becoming an Academy and have investigating options available to us (including inviting two local Academy Organisations to visit for Q&A). At this moment in time we are suggesting that the school does not pursue Academisation, but will regularly review this.</p> <p>Governors have now supported the transition of the new Headteacher commencing in April 2021 and the school is settled (having one academic year under the new Headship). Governors are focused now on further supporting and developing the schools evolution. The school is financially in a healthy state (albeit this is looking set to reduce over the 3 year plan).</p> <p>This year is an exciting one for Ashleigh as it celebrates its 50th year. Plans and preparations to mark such an occasion are underway alongside other outreach projects that will benefit Ashleigh, its staff and pupils as well as the wider education provision in Norfolk.</p> <p>The Governing Board are preparing for our next Ofsted inspection with a view to evidencing the strengths of our school. Ashleigh was last inspected by Ofsted in 2018 when we were judged to be outstanding. We believe we continue to be Outstanding (partially due to the mock inspection that occurred in Summer 2022) but recognise that complacency has no place given the ever changing landscape for education settings.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing board</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; minutes of governing board meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.</p>

Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery Governing Board

Name	Governor Type	Term From	Term To	Roles
Johanne Bolver	Other			Clerk
Lis Jennings	Co-opted governor	04 Dec 20	03 Dec 24	Safeguarding Lead
Carolyn Ellis-Gage	Co-opted governor	18 Jul 2022	17 Jul 2026	Vice-Chair Vulnerable Groups Lead
Danni Lacey	Co-opted governor	11 November 2019	10 November 2023	Deputy Head Teacher. SENDCO.
Hayley Dowling	Staff governor	25 Jul 2022	24 Jul 2026	Staff Governor
John McConnell	Headteacher			Head Teacher
Gavin Tash	Co-opted governor	07 Mar 2022	6 Mar 2026	Finance Lead
Sam Greenhalgh	Co-opted governor	18 January 2019	17 January 2023	Chair of Governors GDPR Lead Chair of Headteachers Performance Panel
David Woozley	Co-opted governor	04 Dec 20	03 Dec 24	Curriculum Lead Website Lead
Jennie Reevey	Co-Opted governor	18 September 2019	18 September 2023	Sports Premium Lead
Sharon Hill	Co-opted governor	04 Dec 20	03 Dec 24	Policies Lead Health and Safety Lead Wellbeing and mental health Lead
Becs Dungay	Parent governor	04 Dec 20	03 Dec 24	Premises Lead
Sarah Sparke	Parent governor	27 Jan 2022	26 Jan 2026	Premises Lead

Register of Business Interests for School Governors

The register should set out the relevant business interests of governors and details of any other educational establishments they govern. The register should also set out any relationships between governors and members of the school staff including spouses, partners and relatives.

Governor	Date Register of Interest Last Updated and Signed	Business Interest Declared	Personal Interest Declared
Danni Lacey	28.09.22	None	None
Hayley Dowling	28.09.22	None	None
Sharon Hill	01.02.22	None	None
Sarah Sprake	01.10.22	Norfolk County Council employee – Early Years Advisor Norfolk commenced on 03.01.22	
Carolyn Ellis-Gage	28.09.22	Parkside School - Headteacher	None
Sam Greenhalgh	29.09.22	None	None
John McConnell			
David Woozley	08.10.22	GovernorHub – employee from 04.10.20	Wymondham Music Festival – Trustee of local charity (charity number: 1081375) 01.12.21
Lis Jennings	28.09.22	None	None
Jennie Reevey	29.09.22	None	None
Gavin Tash	28.09.22	None	Puddle Duck Books – wife’s company
Becs Fletcher-Dungay	29.09.22	None	None

Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery Attendance 2021-22

Y = Attended, N = Apologies Accepted, NA = Apologies not Accepted, NS =
No Apologies sent,
M = Maternity

Governor	Governor Type	Full governing body					
		06.01.21	25.11.21	27.1.22	22.3.22	10.5.22	12.7.22
Johanne Bolver	Clerk	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
John McConnell	HT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Danni Lacey	Co-opted	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Joanna Satterley	Parent	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gavin Tash	Co-Opted	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Carolyn Ellis-Gage	Co-opted	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hayley Downing	Staff	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Sam Greenhalgh	Co-opted	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jennie Reavey	Co-opted	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Sharon Hill	Co-opted	Y	Y	Y	N	NS	N
David Woozley	Co-opted	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Becs Dungay	Parent	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lis Jennings	Co-opted	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Sarah Sprake	Parent	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y