

Governors Statement School year 2025/26

The governing board has the following core strategic functions:

Establishing the strategic direction.

Ensuring accountability

Ensuring financial probity

The governing board contributed to the school development plan by:

Examining, questioning and challenging all available data through committee and full governor meetings.

Completing head teacher's appraisal.

Meeting with Lancashire school's advisor

School Year 2025/26 has been a year of strong development with Mrs Robinson, Head Teacher, and Mrs Watson, Deputy Head Teacher, establishing a robust set of actions and priorities for the school, its children and its staff. The school was put on notice an OFSTED inspection is due in the autumn of 2026 and the relevant preparation, training and information gathering was actioned. This included a governor training session with the school advisor, on- line OFSTED inspection training, completing the PREVENT on- line course, and focussed committee meetings including OFSTED inspection expectations of school and governors.

During the school year the Head teacher was absent for a number of weeks for medical reasons. Mrs Watson deputised efficiently and effectively with the support of the entire school team. We are pleased to report the Head has returned having made a full recovery.

Mrs Short after over 30 years of service to school retired with effect from August 2026. We thank Mrs Short for her committed and invaluable service to the school. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

The Board of Governors agreed the school improvement plan for 2025/26 with key priorities and challenges:

Financial sustainability. The possibility of facing a deficit budget due to insufficient and volatile government funding , rising operational costs and increasing demands for SEN support.

Consistently improving outcomes for all pupils with ever depleting teaching assistant hours to meet the ever-increasing complexity of needs of our pupils and increased perception of additional need from parents without professional reference.

Staff retention and mental health and wellbeing challenges for both staff and children, increasing levels of anxiety, depression and stress alongside delayed access to support and lack of funding.

Ability to maintain and keep up-to-date with new technologies, including the challenges of AI, such as data privacy and security, potential bias in content, lack of funding for staff training , and the dangers of misinformation and inappropriate content exposure.

The pending OFSTED inspection involving new inspection methodology, new focus on inclusion, new toolkits, and the monitoring where improvement required.

The governing board monitored progress towards achieving the improvement plan objectives through termly meetings of the Curriculum and Welfare Committee, the Resources Committee, and the Standards and Effectiveness Committee. The full governing board also met termly to discuss, review and agree necessary actions to achieve the school improvement plan.

Governors have been involved in following the progress of the Quality of early years provision, the Quality of Education, the Quality of personal development, the Quality of behaviour and attitudes and the Quality of leadership and management. The governors have worked with the school team in embracing academic excellence with a wider framework of spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development that enables all to shine from the inside out. The school senior team have established a clear strategy to school year 2026/27 agreed by the governing board, albeit changes maybe required depending on the outcomes of an OFSTED inspection.

The Governors continue to monitor and challenge the senior team on ensuring Safeguarding and Pastoral care of both children and adults is paramount. Much positive work and outcomes can be evidenced, and the Governors are grateful to those staff involved for their commitment and diligence

To provide education to our children in the safest possible environment.

Ensuring that pupils cover the required curriculum in all subjects to a high standard.

Ensuring all teachers have high expectations of all the children and themselves.

To develop provision within the early year's classrooms to ensure that all children benefit from high quality learning.

Update disciplinary policy and improve recording system for both discipline and safeguarding.

Develop provision for outdoors with particular emphasis on the newly built reception outdoor educational area.

Focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is managed and both record and measure how successfully the fund is being utilised. To support senior team in this most important area.

Ensure the Sports funding is used appropriately. To support the team in their continued development of these activities to which the school is totally committed.

Measuring and responding to any attendance issues, bullying issues, racist issues.

Providing prompt response to parents concerns and any grievances through diligent investigation, communication and any necessary actions.

To give the children every opportunity to experience new and different learning experiences through a broader curriculum and to experience learning in a Christian environment.

To recognise the work of our out of hours teams in the After- school club, our caretaker, our school canteen provision and our administration team.

The governing board;

Set and agreed the budget

Monitored spending against the budget

Ensured value for money was obtained

Ensured any risks to the school were managed e.g., Nursery budget.

The governors are aware they will require a comprehensive update from the Head Teacher on the outcomes of the Sat's tests and data and what the educational priorities are as a result. We anticipate the school improvement plan will cover all aspects of this programme.

The fabric and maintenance of the school buildings will remain a priority although major works are not anticipated following the recent completion of the renewal project

The Governors are grateful to the Lancashire Education Authority and the Hornby Trust for their continued and invaluable support. We are indebted to the entire school community for their efforts, support and help throughout the school year.

The Governing Board is optimistic the school is on solid foundations and has a strong and forward- looking leadership team. We send our very best wishes and every success in the future to our departing member of staff. Governors will support as necessary the Senior team in any necessary restructuring.

I would like to thank the members of the governing board my appreciation for their hard work and diligence during the school year, to thank those governors who have completed their term and decided to end their association with the governing board and to welcome newly appointed governors to the team.

Many thanks.

Tim Walker

Chair of Governing Board.