

Annual Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Body of Mattishall Primary School
2024-2025 Academic Year

School Vision/Mission Statement/Aims

OUR VISION:

‘Working together, learning together, achieving together’

AIMS AND ETHOS:

At Mattishall Primary School we value the whole child and balance their academic needs with their social, emotional and personal development. We nurture children to have active, inquisitive and creative minds.

We help them by:

- providing a high-quality curriculum with a clear pedagogical approach
- developing empathy, confidence and resilience
- recognising what equality, diversity and tolerance means
- equipping them with ‘life skills’ and behaviours for learning
- encouraging individuality
- having high expectations and celebrating success and achievement
- raising aspirations for the present and future
- providing a stimulating environment
- promoting a positive partnership with our parents/carers
- developing independent global citizens of the

Our school is a part of Synergy Multi Academy Trust

The vision and Principles of Synergy MAT can be found [here](#)

The Local Governing Body of Mattishall Primary School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

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, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

Membership 2024-25

Governor	Type
Peter Bourne	Chair
Tony Chapman	Headteacher
Helen Paterson	Governance Professional
Claire Findlay	Deputy Headteacher
Ann Berry	Staff governor
Lucy Greenacre	Appointed governor Vice Chair

Richard Timm	Parent governor
Jill Wilson	Appointed governor

Link Governor roles

Governors take responsibility for specific areas as outlined below. In addition to this all non-teaching governors maintained a role in supporting and reviewing the curriculum development of the school.

Although each governor has a linked role it is expected that all governors will have an awareness of these areas with link governors providing updates at the LGB following meetings with relevant staff and end of year reports:

Governor	Type
Peter Bourne	Chair Finance Governor Development Lifeskills (Relationship, Sex and Health Education) Wellbeing Headteacher performance appraisal
Ann Berry	Website and cyber
Richard Timm	Safeguarding Sports Premium
Jill Wilson	Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Pupil Premium Looked After Children (LAC)
Lucy Greenacre	Vice-Chair English Curriculum Development Equality and Inclusion

Meeting Structure

Each LGB meeting has a set agenda and will cover the headings listed below, the specifics of each heading will differ be adapted for each meeting to ensure a wide variety of elements are covered throughout the course of the academic year:

- Presentation from a subject lead or element of the School Improvement Development Plan.
- Quality of Education (inc curriculum development and pedagogy)
- School improvement and development plan
- Safeguarding
- Pupil support and development
- School performance
- Staff wellbeing and development
- Finance
- Health and Safety
- Governor monitoring activities and development
- Policy review and implementation
- Information disseminated to and from Synergy MAT

Attendance record of governors

Individual governor attendance	
Governor	Per cent
Ann Berry	100%
Peter Bourne	100%
Tony Chapman	100%
Claire Findlay	100%
Lucy Greenacre	100%
Helen Paterson	100%
Richard Timm	83%
Jill Wilson	100%

Percentage of governors attending LGBs	
Date	Attendance
24/9/24	100%
19/11/24	88%
28/1/25	100%
18/3/25	100%
21/5/25	100%
15/7/25	100%

Attendance to meetings has been very good throughout the year. All six of the planned meetings have taken place in person at the school.

In addition to the above we welcomed two new governors to the board in May 2025 who attended both the summer term board meetings. Danielle Reynolds-Laye and Irina Stebbens, both of whom have already shown their commitment and enthusiasm to the role; we are sure they will be excellent additions to the team in 2025/26 and the years ahead.

In addition to the above, the attendance data for governors will be available on the school website.

The work that we have done

School performance, quality of education and curriculum

A fundamental part of our role is to ensure the school maintains a high standard and quality of education to all pupils, that supports the ethos and aims of the school. To support this, teaching staff delivered presentations at board meetings on key curriculum areas. This year we received inputs covering Writing, Design and Technology, Maths and Science. This gave the board the valuable insight into how subjects continue to be developed to meet the needs of the pupils across the school. We are then able to witness this in person during monitoring visits to the school where these and other lessons were observed as well as discussions with staff and pupils to better understand the impact of these developments. These monitoring visits are a privilege to experience, we always find the staff and pupils to be welcoming and enthusiastic to engage, sharing their experiences, providing feedback and answer any queries we have.

In addition to this we also receive updates on performance from the senior leadership team, including the review of end of year exam results, teacher assessments, and anonymised case studies demonstrating pupils academic journey through the school.

Finance

Finances continued to be scrutinised throughout the year with support from the Synergy MAT finance team. School finances have been significantly impacted by pressures such as considerable increase in energy costs and a reduction in income due to low intake numbers (linked to nationally falling birth rates). Like many schools nationally Mattishall Primary has had to find significant savings to continue to operate within the confines of the school budget. This led to a number of challenging discussions during financial performance reviews to manage the budget while maintaining the provision of a quality

	<p>educational service. This has resulted in the difficult decision to restructure some classes to save on resources in 2025/25 academic year. The school leaders were praised by the Synergy central finance team for the scrutiny and strict management of the school budget.</p> <p>The Governing Board also recognise and thank the work of the PTA 'Starship' for all the work the volunteers achieve through fund raising which allows the school to purchase essential equipment and resources to enhance pupils experience.</p> <p><u>Safeguarding</u> Safeguarding continued to be reviewed and assessed throughout the academic year both internally and through the use of external assessments. Safeguarding remains a positive and strong area of the school, with well-established processes in place which are supported through the schools Life Skills curriculum. Safeguarding is a standing fixture in board meetings with reports received from Senior Leaders on trends and safeguarding developments.</p>
Future plans for the Local Governing Body	<p>In the coming year the board plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the school with the continual development of the curriculum areas and maintain a high quality of education • Continue to focus on the development and improvement of the school through the school improvement and development plan. • Working with the school and Synergy MAT to review financial performance and viability while maintaining a high quality educational service • Improve visibility of the LGB and feedback opportunities for key stakeholders including parent/pupil voice. • Increase the size of the board with recruitment of appointed / community governor/s to improve links with our community • Develop governor skills through improved training opportunities especially with curriculum monitoring and data assessment.
How you can contact the Governing Body	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. Please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office.</p> <p>You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; and details of how to obtain a copy of minutes of Local Governing Board meetings, on the Governors' page of the school website.</p>