



Orchard Junior School

Growing together. **Branching out.**

Governors' Impact Statement 2022/2023

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Orchard Junior School's Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction
2. Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The main focus of Orchard Junior School's Governing Body is ensuring that our pupils make good progress in their education whilst being happy and safe at school. We appreciate that for this to happen the school must be well-led by a professionally competent leadership team with motivated staff who all work together within a safe, caring, supportive yet professionally challenging environment.

Our vision is for the Orchard community to see that Orchard Junior School is a safe, caring school where we all take pride in ourselves, our learning, our achievements, our community, and our environment; carrying this forward into our future.

In this statement we aim to outline some of the impact we have on the school through our role of challenge and support in the last academic year.

Governance Structure

In the academic year 2022/23, the Governing Body of Orchard Junior School was made up of:

Name	Role	Responsibilities
Carol Taylor	Head teacher	
Nikki Brigg	Chair of Governors	Curriculum Committee Pay Committee HTPM Data group Pupil Premium
Gary Hampton	Vice Chair	Chair of Curriculum Committee Pay Committee Data Group
Becky Littler	Safeguarding	Resources Committee Curriculum Committee HPTM Data Group Safeguarding Governor
Barry Markham		Resources Committee
Sue Wingrove	SEND	Data Group Curriculum Committee
Jenni Dew	Staff Governor	
Claire Walker	Health & Safety	Resources Committee Curriculum Committee Data Group Policies
Steve Mills	Sports Premium	Curriculum Committee Resources Committee
Richard Joyce	Resources	Chair of Resources Committee Staff Wellbeing Governor
Kevin May		

Lesley Sinfield		Curriculum Committee HTPM
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Committees & Meetings

Full Governing Body – “Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction”

Full Governors meetings are held 5 or 6 times each academic year.

At our full governing body meetings Governors receive a report from the Head teacher on all aspects of the running of the school, including updates on numbers on role, the breakdown of various group numbers attendance, behaviour and any safeguarding events. Governors discuss the report and ask questions of the Head teacher thereby improving their knowledge and understanding of the school. It is also an opportunity to challenge the Head teacher and to question aspects of the school’s performance.

The focus at these meetings is to remain strategic and not to become involved in the day to day running of the school, which is the Head teacher’s responsibility.

Safeguarding is a high priority for everyone at the school and is an item on every full governor body meeting agenda. Policies are also reviewed on a rolling basis to make sure they are compliant and to assess their impact. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education’s mandatory policy list.

Governors obtain the views of pupils, staff and parents through regular annual surveys whose results are discussed at full governor meetings. Smaller working parties are formed as necessary to consider any issues which are recognised through the surveys and these report back to the full governing body.

The Governors also focus on staff and pupil wellbeing in particular in relation to work load and the ongoing effects of Covid-19.

Governors are involved in the recruitment of staff in school.

The governing body carry out annual self-assessments and skills audits to ensure they are performing to their maximum ability.

Setting the strategic direction of the school is a vital role of governors. They support the Head teacher in setting the school’s priorities and strategic direction.

Governors continually monitor the School Improvement Plan (SIP). They receive reports relating to the SIP and monitor the progress towards achieving targets and goals. Data is reviewed at relevant points in the year to continually assess and hold the school to account. Monitoring may involve visits to school to speak to staff and

pupils and to view pupil's books and lessons. Governors assess the progress made ensuring the schools clarity of vision, ethos and values are maintained.

Governors are responsible for ensuring that the statutory required information is published on the school website and regular monitoring is made to ensure that the information is correct and up to date.

Curriculum – "Educational performance"

The task of following our pupils' progress and assessment using data provided from internal tracking systems is delegated to the Data Group so that more time can be spent analysing the information and more detail can be examined. This group then report to the Curriculum committee. There is a high level of competency in data analysis in the school leadership team. Governors ensure that they ask the school about the comparative progress and attainment of different groups, including those targeted by the pupil premium grant and the different gender and ability groups. The questions also link to the SIP targets.

Governors monitor the delivery of statutory subjects including the new PHSE & RSE curriculum and receive reports from staff on how it is working in school.

For maximum progress to be made it is important that we look closely at all curriculum areas, interventions, children in receipt of pupil premium and those children requiring special support (SEND).

This committee receives regular reports from the SENDCO and SEND Link Governor who meet to discuss the various needs and support of this group of children.

Governors receive information regarding the use of the Sports Premium Funding and the impact this has on the development of PE across the school.

Children who are identified, using data and teacher observations, are provided additional support.

This committee continues to consider information from the Head teacher to promote the Rosenshine principles, becoming a Trauma school and work on the inclusive classroom.

Our Orchard Curriculum (OOC) is also considered and monitored at these meetings. Governors monitor the pupil's achievements against it and their progress towards being secondary ready.

Following on from last year's Ofsted report, Governors have been focusing on the knowledge element of the curriculum particularly in foundation subjects. Governors have been monitoring the impact of the adjustments made to the curriculum to focus on the knowledge the children are learning.

Governors are monitoring and evaluating the links being made across the curriculum

to the Year 6 residential trip to Castleton. Governors have assisted with the writing of the Curriculum Intent Statement.

Resources – “Financial performance”

This committee is tasked with ensuring that all monies allocated to all areas are accounted for and spent accordingly. The key elements of termly business are discussed and governors hold the Head teacher to account for the financial performance of the school and recommend approval of draft and final budgets to the full governing body. The School Business Manager attends these meetings to present the budgets and other financial information.

Revenue and Capital budgets are considered and discussions about spending and its impact on the pupil’s learning take place.

Every year the Governors approve a 3 year budget which has to be filed with County. This year Governors approved a deficit budget, for the next 3 years. This is as a result of lower school pupil numbers and the lack of adequate funding from the government. Governors are aware that additional funding may come from the government in the next year and are hopeful that adjustments can be made reduce the amount of the deficit.

The governors bring a wide range of expertise to the school and this has the impact of ensuring that budgets are monitored effectively and improvements are effective and continuous and that the school is always moving forward.

Governors also receive information and data on the pupil premium and sports premium allocations and monitor whether the funding is being spent correctly and supports the highest possible outcomes for the pupils.

We also look at building maintenance, building improvement and the health and safety of the whole school. The Health & Safety Link Governor and the Site Manager work closely to ensure that the pupils and staff work and play in an environment conducive with learning, whilst also providing a feeling of security and wellbeing.

The Health & Safety Governor supported the school with an audit from County which produced no action points for the school.

This committee is also tasked with monitoring staff absence, staff well-being and the school staffing structure, along with monitoring the performance management of all staff which is delegated to the Pay Committee who meet twice a year.

Pay Committee – “holding leaders/ staff to account”

Governors also carry out the Head Teacher's performance management assessing the Head teacher's performance against their objectives.

Safeguarding - "ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction"

Governors, through a Safeguarding Link Governor, meet half termly with the Headteacher to monitor and evaluate the systems in place at the school. The Safeguarding Link Governor, then reports back to the Full Governor meetings with an update included on any new developments relating to Safeguarding.

Governors carry out any Safeguarding training available to ensure that they are all up to date with the latest legislation changes in order to hold the school to account.