

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

- Governors actively engaged in shaping and approving the Vision and Values and the School Development Plan (SDP).
- Strategic priorities such as Community, Education for All, and Trust were embedded across both schools.
- Governors contributed to long-term planning, including SEND provision, staffing structure, and capital projects.
- Governors supported leadership through monitoring visits, feedback on safeguarding, and parent engagement strategies.
- Engaged in succession planning, committee appointments, and governor role allocations for 2025–26.
- Governors supported leadership through monitoring visits, staff interviews, and strategic risk discussions (e.g. devolution, birth rate impact, Ofsted changes)

Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance of staff

- Governors reviewed SEND data, EHCP applications, and pupil premium strategies.
- Challenged leadership on staffing changes, SEND provision, and parent feedback.
- Governors monitored staff training, SCR, and curriculum delivery through inset day evaluations and staff feedback.
- Approved and reviewed policies including safeguarding, behaviour, health & safety, and lone working.
- Governors reviewed pupil premium strategies, SEND data, and attendance trends.
- Challenged leadership on SEND tribunal outcomes, safeguarding thresholds, and parent feedback.
- There was a strong focus on safeguarding, with governors receiving detailed updates and engaging in training.

Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

- Governors scrutinised and approved draft budgets for both schools, including three-year financial plans.
- Monitored surplus spending strategies, capital-to-revenue conversions, and pay discrepancies with the local authority.
- Governors ensured audit actions were addressed and finance policies were updated.
- Requested clarity on staffing costs, SEND funding, and fee-paying income.
- Governors tracked building projects (e.g. SEND toilets, portacabin replacement, decarbonisation) and ensured alignment with strategic goals.
- Responded to LA delays and ensured budgets were reviewed and approved with due diligence.

Next steps for 2025-26

- Strengthen parent engagement, especially with fathers and working families.
- Monitor risks from LA devolution and prepare contingency plans.
- Track EHCP and EIF application outcomes and ensure timely submissions, ensure staff are supported through supervision and adequate capacity.
- Ensure all governors complete safeguarding and KCSIE training by the end of September.
- Improve documentation of governor visits and link them to SDP priorities.
- Monitor capital projects (e.g. portacabin, SEN toilets) and ensure timely updates.
- Track building works and ensure minimal disruption to learning.
- Track implementation of parent feedback (e.g. communication, Tapestry updates, parent meetings).
- Governors to understand new Ofsted Framework know their roles and responsibilities for inspection.
- Monitor surplus spending plans to ensure they directly benefit children’s learning and wellbeing.