

**The Governance Annual Statement**  
**South Darley CE Primary School**  
**September 2022 – July 2023**

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of South Darley CE Primary School from September 2022 to July 2023.**

In accordance with the Government's requirements for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the South Darley CE Primary School Governing Body 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**

1. The Governing Body of South Darley CE Primary School is made up of:
  - a) Two Parent governors
  - b) One LA governor
  - c) One Staff governor
  - d) One head teacher
  - e) Two foundation governors
  - f) Two co-opted governors
2. The total number of governors is 9.
3. The term of office of each governor is 4 years
4. The following are entitled to appoint foundation governors:
  - The Derby Diocesan Board of Education shall appoint 1 foundation governors on the nomination of South Darley Parochial Church Council.
5.
  - a) The holder of the following office shall be a foundation governor ex-officio:  
The Rector of St Mary's Church in the Parish of South Darley (or his/her successor in title)
  - b) The foundation body or person named in paragraph 4 shall be entitled to appoint a foundation governor to act in the place of the ex-officio foundation governor whose governorship derives from the office named in a) above, in the event that the ex-officio foundation governor is unable or unwilling to act as a foundation governor, or has been removed from office under regulation 20(2) of the Regulations.
6. The Archdeacon of Chesterfield may request the removal of any ex-officio foundation governor and to appoint any substitute governor.

The range of skills required to contribute to effective governance and the success of the school are:-

- Selflessness – holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.
- Integrity – Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties

- Objectivity – In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
- Accountability – Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office
- Openness – Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- Honesty – Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- Leadership – Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.
- Enthusiasm, commitment and an interest in education

All governors should have the skills required to contribute to effective governance and the success of the school. The specific skills needed vary but experience has shown that all governors need:

- a strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
- the inquisitiveness to question and analyse
- the willingness to learn
- good inter-personal skills
- appropriate levels of literacy in English (unless a governing body is prepared to make special arrangements),
- sufficient numeracy skills to understand basic data
- willingness to attend appropriate training and regular Full Governor and sub-committee meetings

Here at South Darley CE Primary School, Governors are asked to complete a General Skills Audit and a Financial Skills Audit once per academic year. This is used to identify any skills knowledge gaps within the Governing Body and we take steps to try to bridge any identified gap when recruiting new governors.

The Governing Body has programmes of meetings throughout the school year, and a committee structure that focuses on specific areas of governance.

### **Attendance records of Governors**

A record is kept by the clerk to the Governing Body of governors' attendance at meetings. Details of attendance can be found at the bottom of this annual statement.

Meetings need to be 'quorate' to ensure that decisions can be taken.

If a governor has been unable to attend a meeting but has contributed to the work of the Governing Body they can be classed as having attended a meeting. The Chair of the Governors approves any inclusion of this type within the attendance details.

### **The work we have done on our committees and in the Governing Body meetings includes:-**

- Achieved a 'Good' grading at the last Ofsted inspection
- Approved and implemented the annual and 3-year School Improvement Plans which identify strategic aims of the school
- Approved the Statement of Financial Value Standards for the school
- Agreed, maintained and carefully managed a balanced school budget that has enabled the school to move to 3 classes and staff accordingly

- Reviewed, approved and adopted a number of school policies
- Reviewed and analysed pupil attainment, progress and outcomes
- Increased funding for SEN&D pupils
- Reviewed health & safety processes
- Reviewed our safeguarding policies and strategies
- Conducted self-assessment audits on Health & Safety
- Developed links with other schools through Cluster meetings
- Stabilised our pupil numbers
- Supported our School Business Assistant links with other schools through virtual network meetings
- New play equipment installed, playground markings ordered
- Improved the quality of writing and presentation across all year groups
- Appointed a new teacher to continue our third classroom and successfully split our junior class enabling greater focus on pupils
- Enhanced Forest Schools provision for all pupils
- Reviewed development of a new curriculum
- Considered the values and vision of the school in line with Christian scripture

This work is captured in approved minutes of the Governing Body which are available in the School Office.

### **Strategic Planning for the future.**

During the academic year 2023 – 2024 the Governors of South Darley CE Primary School aim to achieve the following:

- To continue to develop the outdoor playground area
- Improve the progress and attainment in Maths across all the year groups
- Improve the monitoring of teaching standards
- Increase learning opportunities for our pupils
- Improve on our 'good' Ofsted rating
- To promote the spiritual development of the school community in all that it does, in line with SIAMS.
- To continue to develop the curriculum so that it:
  - reflects National Curriculum changes
  - ensures that pupils can demonstrate a high level of engagement and independence in learning
  - enables pupils to access local, national and global aspects of learning
  - promotes multicultural awareness
  - meets the needs of all pupils, including those who are SEND, Gifted & Talented and FSM
  - provides opportunities for increased use of ICT
- To ensure that all groups of pupils continue to be safe.
- To ensure school maintains a balanced budget and seek ways to minimise expenditure without impacting delivery
- To continue to systematically invest in site and buildings so that safeguarding and curriculum needs are met.
- Continue to develop our remote learning capacity and ensure that it is inclusive to all.
- To continue to develop and strengthen the roles of all stakeholders, including Governors, staff, pupils and parents, in the school improvement journey.
- Continue to develop partnerships with other schools to promote good teaching and learning practice.
- To continue to develop methods of 2-way communication with parents and the local community.

- To continue to develop the extended services and wraparound care offered to children by providing in-house and working with partner companies.
- To ensure the stability of the school despite staffing changes.
- To continue to ensure that staff and governors are aware of their duties under the Prevent strategy and promote 'British Values'
- To ensure that the school complies with statutory government requirements as they are introduced.
- To utilise peer development reviews with other schools

#### **How to contact your Governing Body.**

Information about the School's Governing Body is available on the Governors' page of the school's website. In addition, if you require further information please contact the School Office.

#### **The South Darley CE Primary School Governing Body – membership**

<b>Governor</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Term of office expiry date</b>
Mrs Eleanor Wood	Co-Opted Governor & Chair	24.09.25
Mrs Maureen Wilson	Foundation Governor	01.08.22
Mr Jeremy Higham	Foundation Governor	13.10.26
Mr Richard Sanderson	LA Governor	14.11.26
Mr Paul Wilde	Ex-Officio (Headteacher)	Ex-Officio
Mr Paul Cubitt	Parent Governor	23.03.26
Miss Jennie Gill	Staff Governor	12.10.24
Mr Richard Barton	Parent Governor	24.05.25
Vacancy	Co-Opted Governor	

#### **The South Darley CE Primary School Governors' Attendance record for (dates from September 2022 to July 2023)**

<b>Governor</b>	<b>FGB meetings - x out of y attended</b>	<b>Committee meetings x out of y attended</b>
Mrs Eleanor Wood	6 out of 6 attended	5 out of 5 attended
Mrs Maureen Wilson	2 out of 6 attended	2 out of 3 attended
Mr Jeremy Higham	5 out of 5 attended	4 out of 4 attended
Mr Richard Sanderson	3 out of 6 attended	3 out of 3 attended
Mr Paul Wilde	6 out of 6 attended	5 out of 6 attended
Mr Paul Cubitt	6 out of 6 attended	2 out of 3 attended
Miss Jennie Gill	5 out of 6 attended	4 out of 4 attended
Mr Richard Barton	6 out of 6 attended	3 out of 3 attended