

Annual Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Body of Gresham Village School and Nursery October 2025

Vision

At Gresham Village School and Nursery, we believe that by a commitment from everyone working together, parents, staff, governors and children, we will provide an education for every child, that will enable them to grow as unique individuals prepared for the next steps in their lives.

Our vision is to achieve excellence in all that we do, so that every pupil attending Gresham Village School and Nursery benefits from excellent teaching, a broad, balanced and knowledge rich curriculum, and superb opportunities to develop and thrive as an individual, underpinned by a culture which is caring, aspirational and outward-looking.

Principles

- Develop highly motivated, independent pupils, who have high hopes and aspirations, and are confident, outgoing, resilient and respectful of others
- Provide a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment, that recognises the importance of learning outside the classroom
- Recognise and foster individual talents and skills
- Build a learning environment where thinking, questioning, problem solving and challenge happen every day
- Provide a broad, balanced and enriched curriculum that offers excellent provision for the academic, aesthetic, artistic, creative, physical, social, emotional and spiritual learning entitlements of all pupils
- Promote the best possible health and well-being for all members of the school community by ensuring a culture of mutual respect and support
- Establish effective links between home, school and the wider community

Values

At Gresham Village we

- Respect ourselves, others and our environment.
- Aim high to achieve our goals.
- Encourage and enable everyone.

As a school, we focus on high quality teaching and learning which empowers every individual to acquire, demonstrate, articulate and value knowledge and skills so they become well-rounded citizens equipped for the challenges of the 21st century.

The Local Governing Body of Gresham Village School and Nursery has a 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 students, and the performance management of staff;
3. Awareness of the financial performance of the school.

Governance arrangements	<p>As of September 2025, the Local Governing Body consists of two Parent Governors, one Staff Governor, two Community Governors and the Headteacher. The Chair is Stephen Balmer-Walters, who is a community governor. The Trust Deputy CEO attends all Local Governing Body meetings.</p> <p>There are Link Governors for Safeguarding, SEND, Pupil Premium, Wellbeing, and Sports Premium.</p> <p>The Governing Body meets regularly at least twice a term. They have termly Governor in School days, when they view the school in action and meet with the staff and pupils. Link governors meet with the relevant school staff on a regular basis depending on their roles.</p> <p>The school is a member of Synergy Multi Academy Trust. The Trust provides centralised services including finance and estates. The Chair of Governors meets with representatives of the schools in the trust, Trustees and the CEO at least once each term to discuss strategic developments.</p>
Attendance record of governors	<p>Attendance has been good. Below is a link to the attendance data for governors on the school website.</p> <p>Gresham Village School and Nursery Synergy Multi-Academy Trust - Governance</p>
The work that we have done	<p>Strategic development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the Head and school with the School Improvement and Development Plan (SIDP) for 24-25 to align monitoring and improvement activities with strategic priorities. Supported the VNET school improvement visit to benchmark practices and identify areas for strategic development. Reviewed and refreshed the SIDP update to reflect evolving needs and lessons learned from the year. Key discussions to support the performance management processes to ensure leadership and staff capacity aligns with strategic objectives. Monitored the impact of the Wensum Trust on curriculum delivery, including the phonics programme, and supported strategic direction accordingly. Annual Governance Statement completed to reflect governance oversight and strategic decisions. <p>Quality of education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View and monitor the implementation of the science curriculum across all year groups to ensure coherence and progression. Monitored the impact of the Trust on phonics delivery and other core subjects to secure high-quality teaching and learning. Equality and diversity considerations embedded in the curriculum to ensure inclusive practice. End of year outcomes reviewed, including Phonics results, EYFS assessments, SATS results, and overall achievement across the school.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved in the external safeguarding audit conducted to verify safeguarding quality and strengthen curriculum safety elements. <p>Educational performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved in the targets for national assessments 2025 set and tracked to drive improvement. Analysis of SATS results, end-of-year Phonics results, and overall attainment across year groups. Review of pupil premium and SEND provision and outcomes (including SEND overview and SEND parent questionnaire). Monitored the regular reporting on attendance data and its relation to overall performance. Pupil progress and attainment discussed in governance meetings, with actions linked to the SIDP. <p>Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring plan for 24-25 developed based on the SIDP, with ongoing evaluation of progress and impact. Regular updates from safeguarding, SEND, health and safety, and finance to ensure comprehensive oversight. Risk Register maintained and updated to reflect current concerns and mitigations. Internal monitoring through self-evaluation and the HT (Headteacher) report to inform governance decisions. External safeguarding audit completed to validate monitoring effectiveness. <p>Feedback from children and parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collected pupil views on safety, wellbeing, lunches, and the rewards system. KS1 and KS2 parents survey and EYFS survey conducted to gather parent feedback on school provision and experience. SEND parent questionnaire reviewed to capture parental perspectives on SEND services. Feedback from school events gathered to inform improvements and celebrate strengths. <p>Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the whole-school safeguarding training delivered to maintain high safeguarding standards. Safeguarding report and health and safety updates reviewed regularly. Part of the discussions regarding external safeguarding audit completed to corroborate internal safeguarding processes. Clear linkage between safeguarding monitoring and wider wellbeing and safety initiatives (children's feedback, risk management, and staff training). <p>Wider community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings with the Friends of GVSN to strengthen community links, fundraising, and shared initiatives. Finance updates and sports premium discussions considered in the broader community context.
--	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor fundraising activities and the Pupil Premium report reviewed to support community engagement and resources. <p>Additional context</p> <p>The school faced a particularly challenging year, primarily due to the long-term absence of the Head teacher. This situation required the governing body to be more visibly active and to support the leadership team to maintain a safe and stable school environment. Despite these challenges, the Governing Body and leadership team worked together to ensure continuity of provision, maintain safety, and learn essential lessons for future resilience. We commit to applying these lessons going forward to strengthen governance, safeguarding, and educational outcomes.</p>
Future plans for the Local Governing Body	<p>Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish quarterly Safeguarding Review Cycle with data deep-dives, training, compliance monitoring, and policy updates. • Implement a 26-27 safeguarding monitoring plan linked to the SIDP; support a schedule for external safeguarding audits. • Support the school in creating a child-friendly safeguarding feedback channel and robust response protocol. • Support and encourage strengthening the liaison with local safeguarding partners and health services. <p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the head to help refresh the 26-28 curriculum roadmap aligned to SIDP priorities and national standards with the support of the Head • Support equality and diversity objectives with clear progression maps and monitoring checks. • Monitor cross-year science curriculum implementation plan; optimise phonics via the Wensum Trust model. <p>Quality of Teaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor professional development aligned to SIDP and performance management findings. • Continue classroom monitoring (observations, learning walks, pupil feedback) • Monitor staff wellbeing and workload to sustain high teaching quality. <p>Monitoring, Data, and Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create 2 new half day monitoring plans to align with supporting the head and the teachers in a positive and collaborative way. • Monitor that decisions are data-driven, linking to SIDP progress and outcome targets. • Publish an annual governance report for transparency; support in preparing parent-friendly progress summaries.

How you can contact the Governing Body	<p>The governors value suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors Stephen Balmer Walters via SBalmer-Walters@greshamvillage.org.uk</p> <p>A full list of governors, their attendance at meetings and minutes of Local Governing Body meetings are available on Gresham Village School and Nursery Synergy Multi-Academy Trust - Governance</p>
---	---