

## Annual Governance Statement

### Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Body of Gresham Village School and Nursery October 2024

#### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

<p><b>Governance arrangements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of September 2024, the Local Governing Body consists of one Parent Governor, one Staff Governor, five Community Governors and the Headteacher. The chairman is Stepen Balmer Walters, who is a community governor</li> <li>• There are Link Governors for Safeguarding, SEND, Pupil Premium, Wellbeing, Monitoring, Equality, Pupil Voice, Health and Safety, Premises and Sports Premium,</li> <li>• The Governing Body meets regularly at least twice a term. They have an annual Monitoring Day, in the spring term, when they view the school in action and meet with the staff. Link governors meet with the relevant school staff on a regular basis depending on their roles.</li> <li>• The school is a member of the Synergy Educational Trust. The Trust provides centralised services including finance and estates. The chair of governors meets with representatives of the schools in the trust, trust directors and the CEO at least once each term to discuss strategic developments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Attendance record of governors</b></p>	<p>Attendance has been good. Below is a link to the attendance data for governors on the school website.</p> <p><a href="#">Gresham Village School &amp; Nursery - Our Governors</a></p>
<p><b>The work that we have done</b></p>	<p>During 2023 the governors completed a Horizon Planning project, involving all stakeholders. This has been used to inform the development of GVS&amp;N over the next five years and beyond. The plan is the basis of the schools current School Improvement and Development Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strategic development</b> The school has grown in numbers of pupils and staff and in September 2023, the school was able to offer one class per year group. We aim to maintain the provision at this level and will not increase class numbers further. Further development of the buildings and outdoor environment are planned and in 2024 we saw refurbishment of the children’s toilets and replacement of windows in the hall and Class 5. The Trust acted very quickly over the summer holidays to remove all the lathe and plaster lining the old hall’s roof, this involved replacing all the suspended ceiling across class 5 and the hall.</li> <li>• <b>Quality of education, particularly the curriculum</b> Following central discussion of the optimum primary curriculum within the Trust, we are now one year into delivering the Cornerstones Curriculum across KS1 &amp;KS2. We will continue to teach maths using the White Rose scheme and early reading will be supported by Read Write Inc as before. Governors regularly monitor areas of the curriculum and remain keen to offer additional educational opportunities such as Music and Drama for all, wrap around provision with breakfast and after school clubs. We strive to continue offer outdoor learning through Forest Schools and sporting opportunities.</li> <li>• <b>Educational performance</b> Each term, the head teacher provides the governors with verbal or written summaries of pupils’ progress and attainment measured against national targets. Areas for intervention and</li> </ul>

support in key subjects are discussed to ensure that each individual pupil achieves the best possible educational outcome. Staff were congratulated on the KS2 outcomes for Maths and Reading in the National SATS exams with results exceeding national targets.

Wider educational opportunities both within and outside the school for all pupils are regularly reviewed. Class outings included visits to the Fitzwilliam Gallery in Cambridge, the Sainsbury Centre at UEA, Whitlingham Broad Water Sports Centre and How Hill.

The governors received an excellent presentation on SEND needs and the role of the new Inclusion Team in December 2023 from Karen Nice. The school has been actively managing the increased number of children classed to require SEND in a challenging financial environment.

- **Monitoring**

The Chair of governors meets with the head every two weeks. The heads termly report to the Full Governing Body includes updates on attendance, staffing, finance, premises, health and safety. Governors have an annual monitoring programme which includes selected topics each term, in addition to a full day in school during the spring term, when governors can see the school first hand and meet with pupils and staff. The governors' areas of priority for governor monitoring in 2023/24 have been improvements in writing, the impact of the Cornerstones Curriculum, inclusion, cultural capital and smooth transition between year groups.

Individual governors have their own areas of responsibility which usually involve meeting with the headteacher, staff or pupils two or three times each year. The specific areas monitored in this way include; Safeguarding, SEND, Pupil Premium, Staff wellbeing, Equality and Health and Safety

The outcome of this monitoring is shared with the Full Governing Body.

- **Feedback from children and parents**

The governors conducted a parent survey across KS1 &2 in the spring term and EYFS Parent Survey in the summer term. The results were discussed and letters containing a summary of the comments and future plans were issued to parents on each occasion.

Feedback from children is gained by governors attending School Council Meetings, playground visits, school music, drama performances and formal meetings with groups of children during our spring monitoring day.

- **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is regularly monitored by the Safeguarding Governor both independently and during meetings with the headteacher. Reports are regularly presented to the Governing Body. The Single Central Record is audited to ensure compliance.

- **Wider Community** During the year the governors met and are continuing to work with representatives of GVS Friends and the local Parish Council.

**Key issues faced and addressed by the Local Governing Body**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupil wellbeing and mental health and embedding the work of the inclusion team</li> <li>• Improving pupil attendance which was 93.7% against a school target of 96%</li> <li>• Development of the curriculum to make it specific to the education of pupils at GVS</li> <li>• Improving standards of educational achievement in literacy and maths whilst maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum Our monitoring continues to focus on improving standards in writing to include implementation of the whole school writing strategy and staff training.</li> <li>• Review and challenge the key issues, systems and support for SEND learners.</li> <li>• Improved communication with parents and carers and faster management of concerns</li> <li>• Ensuring that outdoor provision is maximised within the curriculum in the form of Forest School provision and sport</li> <li>• Development of the estate with further upgrading of the school environment, to cater for increased pupil numbers.</li> <li>• Developments within the school’s senior leadership have included, creation of the Inclusion Team, for pupil welfare, and the Standards Team for enhancing quality of education. Subject leaders have been grouped into curriculum teams to include STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and Outdoor learning teams.</li> <li>• By working with the Parish Council, improved safety measures are now in place at the beginning and end of the day</li> </ul>
<p><b>Future plans for the Local Governing Body</b></p>	<p>The school is continuing to embed the new curriculum, raise standards and support pupil wellbeing.</p> <p>The main areas identified, within the Governors Five Year review, which continue to inform our School Improvement and Development Plan are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support children’s personal development, including children’s specific talents and mental health, so all children can flourish.</li> <li>• To deliver a consistently inspiring and ambitious curriculum that leads to excellent outcomes for all children</li> <li>• To develop and implement systems and expertise which will improve outcomes for SEND learners and in turn outcomes for all pupils.</li> <li>• To develop the expertise of all staff in order to deliver best practice in teaching and learning across the school</li> <li>• To create a school learning environment that supports our aims for children’s personal development and the delivery of an inspiring and ambitious curriculum</li> <li>• To implement leadership and governance structures that support thee strategic and operational running of the school</li> <li>• To improve partnerships and communication with parents and the local community and the school’s offer of support for families</li> <li>• To create a sustainable financial model that supports the growth of the school</li> </ul>

<b>How you can contact the Governing Body</b>	<p>The governors value suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors Stephen Balmer Walters via <a href="mailto:SBalmer-Walters@greshamvillage.org.uk">SBalmer-Walters@greshamvillage.org.uk</a></p> <p>A full list of governors, their attendance at meetings and minutes of Local Governing Body meetings are available on <a href="https://www.greshamvillage.co.uk/our-school/our-governors/">https://www.greshamvillage.co.uk/our-school/our-governors/</a></p>