

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of
Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School
"Discovering a world of wonder, empowered by God's Spirit"
July 2023**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Perfect Primary School Governing Body are:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
2. **Holding the head teacher 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

The Governing Body of Woodcocks' Well CE Primary School was re-constituted in 2014 following a conversion from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided. It is now made up of 7 Foundation Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 1 Staff Governor, 1 parent governor. The Head Teacher is an ex-officio governor.

This year we currently have 1 vacancy for a Foundation governors, 1 Community Governor, 1 parent Governor.

The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. At Woodcocks' Well CE PS we have a Resources Committee, which focuses on finance, premises and some personnel matters; a Learning and a Well-Being Committee. We also have committees that meet if required to specific aspects of school life which include staffing matters.

See Appendix I for a list of Governors.

Attendance record of governors

Governors have very good attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).

Head Teacher and staff

This year has seen the sad departure of Mrs Massen who work tirelessly for 17 year at Woodcocks' with a bright new beginning of Mrs Beckett joining us in January 2021 – her vision of our school has been a breath of fresh air and her commitment is second to none. She has had to deal with not only starting her position mid-year but only one day in, lockdown was forced. Amazingly, she has survived to tell the tale and we welcome her in our school, church and community.

All five of our teachers during 2020 have been on maternity leave but can happily say have now but one returned.

The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body

Due to COVID things have been very different since August 2020. In the Autumn, our Learning and Wellbeing Committee Meetings, Resources Committee Meetings, and Full Governing Body Meeting still went ahead as normal, however all remotely. We worked on a number of School development points led by our School Improvement Partner, Mary-Hennessy-Jones.

The Learning and Well Being Committee have continued to consider progress against the School Development Plan, particularly in relation to the number of pupils working at 'Greater Depth'. The implementation of the new curriculum in September 2020 has been key on how the class bubbles would work best for the children and staff to ensure smooth transition from remote learning to "back in the classroom" learning. Governors also discussed key data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. This has all proven very difficult following the second lockdown of schools in January through to March 2021. Remote learning has not been easy for everyone, teachers included, with some children in school and some at home. Albeit, we have been very pleased with the progress children have made across the school but there is still work to be done.

Unfortunately, due to restrictions, link governors have been unable to make those crucial visits to school however, normal lessons have continued in classroom bubbles and the School has successfully still been able to have a Science week, encouraging our budding scientists and an Climate Change Awareness week led by the Ethos Council

Governors continue to focus on the experience and outcomes of our "vulnerable groups" of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their progress. The progress and attainment of children entitled to Pupil Premium along with progress made by children with special educational is analysed by the school and averages reported to governors.

The Resources Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget. In the summer term, the Resources Committee approved the 2021/22 budget plan for the school. We are pleased to report that the school continues to be in a good position financially.

At virtual meetings we have considered the staffing plan and have a comprehensive plan of teacher-support in place.

Mrs Lawless is our Health and Safety Governor and she attends the annual Health and Safety Audit and meetings relating to the upkeep, care and safety of the school. Governors are also particularly concerned about safeguarding and we have a nominated governor for 'Safeguarding', a nominated governor for 'Child Protection', a nominated governor for 'Cared for Children' – nominated Governor for the above is Gemma Scott and a 'Pupil Premium Champion' governor (Mrs Stanley).

Governors have been involved in the extra-curricular life of Woodcocks' Well including participating in after school activities, such as the gardening club and participating in the celebration year 6 'Leavers Pizza Party'.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies and this year we have considered a number of key policies, including:

Child Protection and Safeguarding
Remote Learning Policy
Covid Risk Assessment

The Governing Body is very pleased that good attendance figures at the school have been maintained when children have been able to come

	<p>into school. It should also be stated that we have not had to close any of our class bubbles due to COVID, which is excellent.</p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents - you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p>
Future plans for the governors	<p>This year, due to church closures due to covid it has been difficult to link with St Luke's as a whole school including governor involvement however, the Head Teacher (Steph Beckett) has been working closely with the church to organise Family Services from 2021, when all restriction should hopefully be lifted. Governors are working closely with staff via the curriculum to develop the Christian distinctiveness of the school -see SIAMs section below.</p> <p>Governors continue to play an important part in the whole life of the school engaging in many different school activities such as after-school clubs.</p>
SIAMs	<p>This year has been an exciting stage in the school life as far as SIAMS is concerned. It has seen the school getting to grips with the new SIAMS framework, first under the guiding hand of Mrs Massen and then with our new head (Mrs Stephanie Beckett).</p> <p>It has been a busy year with teachers, TAs, governors and our amazing head all working together to see our distinct Christian vision start to be embedded and celebrated in and through all of the Woodcock's family stakeholders.</p> <p>The coming school year will see us build upon this as we strive to see our school attain good feedback from the Diocese in our SIAMS inspection which is due early in the new school year.</p> <p>Covid saw extra difficulties presented to the governance our school with Governor's not being able to come into school due to Government Covid regulations. Yet ever resourceful we are seeking to Implement virtual visits and outdoor Link Governor learning walks coupled with extra training so our Governing body can confidently lead the way in our school with the understanding that they have a strong relationship with other stakeholders and a good knowledge base of what is expected of us to shine brightly as a Church of England school.</p>
How you can contact the governing body	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Maria Lawless, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors listed on Appendix I. Appendix II lists the sub committees on which governors serve. Appendix III details the curriculum areas and other responsibilities / duties specific to each governor. Minutes of governing body meetings are available on request by contacting the school office.</p>

Appendix I

Instrument of Government - Total Number 10 Governors

Name of Governor	Governor Category	Appointment Date	Committee Membership R = Resources L = Learning, Community & Well Being	Business Interest	Financial Interest	Governance Roles in other Schools
Ruth Winterton Vice-Chair of Governors	Foundation	19.03.2019	R L	None	None	None
Maria Lawless Chair of Governors	Foundation	17.11.2015	R L	Spouse of school fund auditor, PTFA auditor and St Luke's Church auditor	Spouse of school fund auditor, PTFA auditor and St Luke's Church auditor	None
Dr Kate Walchester Chair of Govs	Foundation	17.11.2015	L R	Spouse of Building Consultant	Spouse of Building Consultant	None
Ian Doughty	Foundation	17.11.2015	R L	Links with Congelton Museum	Links with Congleton Museum	None
Rector Philip Atkinson	Foundation ex-officio	-	R L	None	None	None
Jo McKie	Foundation	9.3.2013	R L	None	None	None
Steph Beckett Head Teacher	Ex-Officio	-	R L	None	None	None
Vicky Booth Assistant Head Teacher	Staff Governor	18.11.2014	L	None	None	None
Gemma Scott	Local Authority Governor	15.10.2019	L	None	None	None
Rachael Stanley	Parent Governor	01.09.2018	L	None	None	None

Appendix II

Additional Responsibilities

Instrument of Government - Total Number 10 Governors

Community (Co-opted)

1 Vacancy

Foundation (7)

Maria Lawless **Chair**

Ruth Winterton **Vice-Chair**

Dr Kate Walchester

Ian Doughty

Rector Philip Atkinson

Jo McKie

Rob New

1 vacancy

Local Authority

Gemma Scott

Head Teacher

Steph Beckett

Parent

Rachael Stanley

1 vacancy

Staff Governor

Vicky Booth

Appendix III
Sub Committees

Resources Sub Committee Members

M.Lawless (Chair)
R.Winterton
K Walchester
Rec. Philip Atkinson
J.McKie
S.Beckett
I.Doughty

Learning, Well Being & Community Sub Committee Members

K.Walchester (Chair)
M.Lawless
R.Winterton
I.Doughty
S.Beckett
Rev P.Atkinson
I.Doughty
V.Booth
J.McKie
R.Stanley
G.Scott

Admissions Authority / Early Years Committee

S.Beckett
J.McKie
M.Lawless

Head Teacher Performance Management Sub Committee Members

R.Winterton
Rec P.Atkinson
M.Lawless

Pupil Discipline Committee

Resources Committee

Staff Disciplinary / Dismissal Committee

Resources Committee

Staff Appeals Committee

Learning and Well Being Committee

Appendix IV
Curriculum Responsibilities- Governors & Staff

<u>Areas</u>	<u>Governor</u>	<u>Teaching Staff</u>
English	K.Walchester	V.Booth
Maths	J McKie	S.Beckett
Science	M.Lawless	L.Phillips
RE	Rec P. Atkinson/R. Winterton	A.Edwards
PSHCE/SEAL	Rec P. Atkinson /G.Scott	S.Beckett
ICT	J McKie	V.Booth/J.McKie
Music	M.Lawless	I.Harley
MFL	R.Stanley	S.Beckett
Humanities/Art	M.Lawless	J.Horton
PE	K.Walchester	V.Booth
SEND	M.Lawless/R.Stanley	S.Beckett/J.McKie
Relationships & Health	M.Lawless	S.Beckett
Assessment & Monitoring	M.Lawless	S.Beckett/V.Booth
Attendance	G.Scott	S.Beckett
Residential Visits	M.Lawless	V.Booth
Child Protection	G.Scott	S.Beckett
Cared For Children	G.Scott	S.Beckett
Safeguarding	Rec P. Atkinson	S.Beckett
Pupil Premium Champion	R.Stanley	S.Beckett
Health & Safety	M.Lawless	S.Beckett/A.Timmis
Coronavirus Catch up premium	M.Lawless	S.Beckett
Remote Learning	M.Lawless	S.Beckett
EYFS	G. Scott	A. Edwards