

**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 2024 – 2025**

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, 2 Parent Governor and 1 Co-opted Governor. The Head Teacher is an Ex-officio Governor.

This year we currently have 2 vacancies for Foundation governors, 1 Community Governor, 1 Local Authority Governor.

The Governing Body is key to the leadership of Woodcocks' Well Primary School. The Governing Body supports and challenges the Headteacher to continually improve the school and provide the best education for every child. This Annual Governance Statement is one way in which the Governing Body communicates its work and the impact we have had on school improvement to our stakeholders.

The Governing Body is made up of a group of committed volunteers who bring a range of skills and expertise and come from a variety of backgrounds. Governors are committed to improving the education of every child in our school and invest a huge amount of good will, hard work and time.

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.

In the new Academic Calendar Year 24/25 it has been agreed that there will no longer be sub-committees for Resources and Learning & Well-being – we are moving towards 6 Full Governing Board Meetings a year alternating Resources and Learning & Well-being to be incorporated and focussed upon as well as other aspects.

See Appendix I for a list of Governors.

<p>Attendance record of governors</p>	<p>Governors has a 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).</p>
<p>Head Teacher and staff</p>	<p>Mrs Beckett who joined us in January 2021, has led the school to new heights with her enthusiasm and willingness to include everyone within the community. Our link Church, St Lukes, was on the brink of closure and together with a team of people within the community and the school she has been a massive part for instigating it staying open. She is an active member of the church committee and has embellished the family services held there on a fortnightly basis. Being a church school, this has been a complete success for those new families who wish to send their children to us and she has gained excellent relationships with them.</p> <p>This academic year brought us new members and changes within our staffing team:</p> <p>Mrs Edwards in our Reception class (Diamond) – left to go on maternity leave in March 2024 and we were then joined by Mrs Edward at the beginning of January 2024 – all very confusing.</p> <p>Mrs Bate joined us in March 2024 for our Key Stage 1 Class, years 1 and 2 (Emerald) – she has made excellent progress with the children.</p> <p>Miss Harley has led the Lower Key Stage 2 Class, years 3 and 4 (Amethyst). She has continued to be her usual bubbly self, encouraging those super stars to know they are super stars.</p> <p>Mr Hall joined us in September 2023 and has led the Upper Key Stage 2 Class, years 5 & 6 (Ruby). Mrs Phillips led the year 6’s to their SATs tests from December 2023. She did this in conjunction to working every day outside in the afternoons in our amazing forest school.</p> <p>They all do an amazing job for the school and the support they show to Mrs Beckett is a compliment to her leadership skills. Moving forward into 2024/2025 – we have employed two new teachers Mrs Mahmood and Miss Pate.</p> <p>Mrs L Edwards and Mrs Bate will remain at our school to cover the ret of Mrs A Edwards maternity cover.</p>
<p>The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body</p>	<p>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’. 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. Albeit with the legacy of Covid, we have been very pleased with the progress children have made across the school but there is still lots work to be done.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Resources Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, it makes decisions about how the school should</p>

	<p>use the budget. In the summer term, the Resources Committee approved the 2023/24 budget plan for the school, this was then ratified at our Full Governing Board Meeting.</p> <p>We have also considered the staffing plan during our Resources Committee and have a comprehensive plan of teacher-support in place.</p> <p>Mrs Lawless is our Health and Safety Governor, due to work commitments she was unable to attend the annual Health and Safety Audit, however she has been able to review the report with Mrs Beckett and Mrs Timmis in relation to the upkeep, care and safety of the school.</p> <p>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 it is and a 'Pupil Premium Champion' governor (Mrs J McKie).</p> <p>One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies. We keep a log of when policies are due to expire and these are included within Governor Hub for ratifying – also agreed at the next relevant FGB.</p> <p>We have had a few challenges with our 170 year old building and working together with our School's Architect, Mr Kelsall, we have agreed to roof repairs, drainage repairs, lighting upgrades, new boiler and classroom repairs to old plaster needing removing. All done via the support of the Diocese.</p> <p>Link Governors have been busy ensuring our link reports are up to date, science, safeguarding, PE, maths, English and humanities.</p> <p>Part 1 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>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>Governors continue to play an important part in the whole life of the school engaging in many different school activities such as residentials - Paris is again booked for the next academic year and Mrs Lawless will be attending this.</p> <p>Governors continue to assist in challenging the head in improving our educational standards so that our children have the chance to realise their full potential. We believe the key to improving school performance is effective governance. By finding, nurturing and supporting, our governors are committed to help drive systematic change in how our school operates for the benefit of our children.</p> <p>The 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>
<p>SIAMs</p>	<p>This year has been an exciting stage in the school life as far as SIAMS is concerned. It has not only seen the school getting to grips with the new SIAMS framework, with our new head (Mrs Beckett) and our RE lead Mrs Edwards but also the school's first inspection in September 2023 for 5 years. The Governors were very pleased with the Good 2</p>

	<p>outcome and an excellent result – everyone involved in the school, worked extremely hard to achieve this accolade.</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>How you can contact the governing body</p>	<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. Part 1 Minutes of governing body meetings are available on request by contacting the school office.</p>

Appendix I

Total Numbers of Governors at Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School is: 10

Name of Governor	Governor Category	Date of appointment/ by who	Committee Membership	Business Interest	Financial Interest	Governance Role in other schools	End Date of term of office
Maria Lawless	Foundation	17.11.2015 PCC	R, LW	Spouse of school fund auditor	Spouse of school fund auditor		27.03.25
Steven Garratt	Parent	29.09.2021 Parent Election	R	A member of the PTFA but not a Trustee	A member of the PTFA but not a Trustee		28.09.25
Ruth Winterton	Foundation	19.03.2019 PCC	R, LW			Governor at another school	11.03.27
Dr Kate Walchester	Foundation	17.11.2015 PCC	R, LW	Spouse of Building Consultant	Spouse of Building Consultant		11.03.28
Ian Doughty	Foundation	17.11.2015 PCC	R	Links with Congleton Museum	Links with Congleton Museum		31.10.25
Rector Philip Atkinson	Ex-Officio Foundation	PCC	R, LW				31.08.25
Johanne Mckie	Foundation	09.03.2013 PCC	R, LW				13.07.25
	Local Authority	Position Vacant at Present					
Lindsay Johnson	Parent	29.09.2021 Parent Election	LW	A member of the PTFA but not a Trustee	A member of the PTFA but not a Trustee		28.09.25
Janet Horton	Co-opted	FGB	R	Ex-member of staff			30.11.26
Laura Phillips	Staff	FGB					11.09.25
Stephanie Beckett	Ex-Officio Headteacher	01.01.2021 FGB	R, LW				

Appendix II

Additional Responsibilities

Instrument of Government - Total Number 10 Governors

Foundation - 7

Maria Lawless

Emma Ford

Dr Kate Walchester

Ian Doughty

Rector Philip Atkinson

Johanne McKie

Vacancy

Parent – 2

Steven Garratt

Lindsay Johnson

Local Authority – 1

Vacancy

Co-opted – 1

Janet Horton

Staff – 1

Laura Phillips

Headteacher – 1

Stephanie Beckett

Appendix III
Sub Committees

Resources Committee

Maria Lawless (Chair)
Dr Kate Walchester
Rector Philip Atkinson
Johanne McKie
Ian Doughty
Steven Garratt
Janet Horton
Stephanie Beckett

Learning and Wellbeing Committee

Dr Kate Walchester (Chair)
Maria Lawless
Ruth Winterton
Rector Philip Atkinson
Johanne McKie
Lindsay Johnson
Stephanie Beckett

Admissions Committee

Stephanie Beckett
Maria Lawless
Steven Garratt
Lindsay Johnson
Johanne McKie

Headteacher Performance Management Committee

Rector Philip Atkinson
Steven Garratt

Pupil Discipline Committee

Staff Disciplinary / Dismissal Committee
Resources committee
Staff Appeals Committee
Learning and Wellbeing committee