

PARK STREET CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/2026

The Core Functions of the Governing Body

Ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined; ensuring that the Headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school; and ensuring the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at the school throughout the course of the 2025/26 academic year.

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government allows for 12 governors across the following categories:

- The Headteacher (ex officio)
- Two Parent Governors (elected)
- One Local Authority Governor (appointed)
- One elected Staff Governor
- Seven Foundation Governors – three appointed by the Ely Diocesan Board of Education, three appointed by the Trustees of the Church Schools of Cambridge, and one ex officio appointment made by the Archdeacon of Cambridge (Diocese of Ely)

Current membership: 9

Current vacancies: 3 (two Foundation Governor vacancies and one Parent Governor vacancy, with an appointment in progress)

The Governing Body's long-standing Chair, Nigel Moorhouse, resigned in September 2025. Having co-chaired alongside him during the previous year, the current Chair was well placed to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of leadership. The board also appointed a new Staff Governor, following the end of the previous postholder's term, and welcomed a newly appointed Foundation Governor. A Parent Governor resigned during the year; recruitment to this vacancy is progressing well and is expected to conclude shortly. The two Foundation Governor vacancies are long-standing, and the board continues to work in partnership with the church to identify suitable candidates.

Chair: Laura Kirsop

Vice-Chair: Neil Chippington

Clerk: Kerry Thompson

Over the course of the year, governors at Park Street have demonstrated an overall positive attendance and engagement with their work.

The governor attendance record is published on the school website:

<https://parkstreet.cambs.sch.uk/governors/>

The Structure of Governance

The Governing Body uses the 'Circle Model' of governance, where delegation is to working parties of governors. The board has met as a Full Governing Body six times this year.

The board maintains a standing Foundation Committee, to which it delegates responsibility for the Christian character of the school. Other working groups – such as Admissions and Pay Review – are established as required.

All groups maintain continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and manage the updating of school policies aligned to their particular areas of responsibility.

Impact of the work of the Full Governing Body

Over the course of the last academic year, the Governing Body has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Christian character and SIAMS: Foundation Governors, and Lorna Atwell in particular, have made a significant contribution this year. They have overseen and strengthened the Christian character of the school and supported the school's preparation for its SIAMS inspection. Foundation Governors have also been regular and engaged visitors to school events, assemblies and services.
- Strategic challenge on the School Development Plan: The Vice-Chair, drawing on his experience as a former Headteacher, has provided valued support and constructive challenge on the School Development Plan, particularly on curriculum matters such as oracy and the breadth of non-core subjects.
- Cyber security: The Chair has led engagement with the Headteacher and the school's IT provider to begin the school's journey towards meeting the DfE cyber security standards (required by 2030), drawing on relevant professional expertise to assess current provision and shape a realistic improvement plan.

The main challenges faced and addressed by the Board this year have been:

- Governor recruitment: The board's main ongoing challenge has been recruitment to its two long-standing Foundation Governor vacancies; the board continues to work with the church to identify suitable candidates. Recruitment to the Parent Governor vacancy is progressing well and is expected to conclude shortly.
- Collective worship and religious education: The board has supported the Headteacher in ensuring the school's approach to collective worship and religious education is well communicated to families, drawing on guidance from the Diocese. This ensures the school's approach remains consistent with its designation as a Church of England school and accessible to the diversity of its community.

Governor Training

Governors work collectively, so we are always able to benefit from our different points of view and considerations within meetings. The Governing Body has also benefitted from training throughout the year, including:

- Safeguarding: Governors undertook in-person safeguarding training at the start of the year, completed alongside school staff to reinforce a shared, whole-school understanding of safeguarding responsibilities.
- Diocesan training: Training provided by the Diocese of Ely has been consistently excellent, supporting governors' understanding of the school's religious character, SIAMS preparation, collective worship and the distinctive role of a Church of England school.
- New governor induction: Newly appointed governors have been proactive in completing their induction, making good use of the online materials and induction checklists provided.
- Collaboration with the Church Schools of Cambridge: The board has forged closer links with other CSoC schools. Governors from St Philip's visited Park Street, providing a valuable opportunity to share practice informally, and joint training on effective monitoring visits is planned with them for June.

Governor Monitoring

As well as attending meetings, governors visit school to understand more about school life and particular areas of priority. Throughout this year, governors have undertaken monitoring in relation to:

- Safeguarding: The Safeguarding Governor has carried out regular safeguarding monitoring visits, with the Vice-Chair stepping in to maintain continuity during a period of absence, enabling the board to provide effective oversight and challenge in this critical area.

- Christian character: Foundation Governors have been regular and engaged visitors, attending assemblies and services and supporting the Headteacher in sustaining the school's Christian ethos.
- Cyber security: The Chair has undertaken a series of cyber security monitoring visits, which have directly informed practical actions including planning staff training and the introduction of two-factor authentication.
- Curriculum: The Vice-Chair has conducted curriculum monitoring visits, providing informed support and challenge.
- Health and safety, and SEND: Regular monitoring has also taken place in relation to health and safety and to special educational needs and disabilities provision, overseen by the relevant link governors.
- Strategic support to the Headteacher: The Chair's regular conversations with the Headteacher have supported the school on matters including buildings and funding, and the handling of sensitive staffing and parent situations.

Compliance

Safeguarding

The Governing Body has ensured that an effective safeguarding culture is in place. Our work includes regular safeguarding monitoring visits, all governors completing safeguarding training alongside staff, and a designated Safeguarding Governor who provides dedicated oversight and challenge. The board reviews the school's safeguarding arrangements as part of its annual governance cycle.

Policies and procedures

The Governing Body has ensured that the relevant policies and procedures are in place by maintaining an effective policy review tracker, ensuring that all statutory policies are reviewed on schedule and updated in line with the latest model policies. Policies are reviewed as needed throughout the year, and the board continues to benefit from the support of the outgoing Chair, who remains actively involved in supporting the school in this area.

Forward Planning

- The board looks forward to concluding governor recruitment, particularly to its Foundation vacancies, and to progressing the school's cyber security improvement plan towards the 2030 standards.
- The school is in a fortunate financial position, and the board is committed to maintaining this strong and sustainable footing.
- The school is also in a fortunate position with regard to pupil outcomes, and the board is committed to sustaining this strong performance.
- The board looks forward to continuing to develop its connections and relationships with other Church Schools of Cambridge.

'Inclusion for All Framework'

Inclusion is the removal of barriers and ensuring a culture of belonging for all pupils. Within the 'Inclusion for All Framework' we create a sense of belonging and promote well-being and attendance through safeguarding, curriculum, special educational needs and disabilities support, behaviour and transition.

At Park Street, inclusion flows directly from our Christian vision, rooted in the Parable of the Mustard Seed: that small beings and small deeds can have large and consequential effects, and that ours is a school where every child can 'lodge' and grow within a sustaining, protecting and invigorating environment before travelling onwards. We believe every child is made in God's image

– amazing, loved, valued, wonderful and unique – and this conviction underpins our commitment to belonging for all.

The Governing Body supports the school in removing barriers and nurturing a culture of belonging through the strands of the Inclusion for All Framework. Our safeguarding culture ensures every child feels safe and known – readily achievable in a small school where every member of staff knows our children and families well.

Our curriculum, including a rich and inclusive approach to Religious Education that honours the many faiths and worldviews of our diverse community, promotes dignity, respect and understanding.

Our provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, overseen by our SEND Governor, ensures that every child can access learning and flourish.

Our approach to behaviour is grounded in our values of honesty and respect, friendship and kindness, and learning and fun.

And we give careful attention to transition, supporting children as they join us, move through the school, and move on, so that they carry all they have learned and experienced with them.

In all of this, the Governing Body seeks to ensure that Park Street remains, in practice and in policy, a beacon of Christian welcome and hospitality where all may experience 'life in all its fullness'.

Other Information and Contact

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at:

<https://parkstreet.cambs.sch.uk/governors/>

Stakeholders can contact or engage with the Governing Body via the Clerk at clerk@parkstreet.cambs.sch.uk, or by dropping off written correspondence at the school office.