

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School 2024/2025.

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

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction.
2. Holding the Head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and for the performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its income is well spent.

The Board of Governors of Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School is currently made up of:

- 2 parent governors (one vacancy)
- 2 staff governors (including the Head-teacher)
- 1 Local Authority governor
- 2 co-opted governors (one vacancy)
- 1 Foundation governors (including Ex Officio Rector, one vacancy)

More details of the governors and of their areas of expertise can be found on the school website. This year has been a steady year for governors, during the year they have all attended training to develop their skills.

The Full Governing Body meets once each term. This year the full GB meetings have been held in person and have been overall well attended (generally only 1-2 apologies) and professional. The school also has 3 committees to consider different aspects of the school in more detail. The minutes of these committees feed into the meetings of the full Governing Body. These committees are:

- Teaching and Learning Committee
- Safeguarding Sub-committee
- Resources and Finance Committee

The school has had a challenging year but has responded well and is still making good progress overall. The governors have supported the school with various targets with successful results.

The work that we have completed in our committees and through direct governor involvement in school activities during the past year includes:

- Continued development of the PE curriculum, termly enrichment activities including climbing and yoga, moving away from the Eden Valley Sports Partnership
- Further developing the RE Curriculum, by incorporating the Questful resource.
- Reviewing spirituality and collective worship with CPD involving staff and the Diocese.
- Promoting children's wellbeing through all staff completing Youth Mental Health First Aid training.
- Maintaining a programme of enrichment activities including forest schools, climbing, yoga, dance, fell walking, football coaching, trips to Newcastle Science Centre, the Lake District, Acorn Bank, Lowther Castle and the Boggle Hole residential.
- Monitoring the school budget resulting in a healthy budget position and carry forward.
- Continued strong pupil numbers for next year, with healthy intake numbers forecasted for the next few years.
- A highly experienced team of teaching staff, training for all staff in different areas including NPQH and the NPQ SENCO.
- Strong community links with our Tots toddler group, local National Trust property and gardens at Acorn Bank, village hall and The Kings Arms.
- Reviewing and updating policies and procedures on a rolling basis.
- Ongoing promotion of the school, including website updates, promotion of prospectus, regular Facebook posts.

- Development of links to the Ankoma Outreach Appeal in Ghana through fundraising and visits to our school.

Strategic Planning for the Future

Quality of Education: Continue to prepare for SIAMS inspection, incorporating the climate curriculum and completing the Artsmark Award.

Behaviour and Attitudes: Build on collective worship being led by children and liaising with the Diocese particularly in relation to courageous advocacy.

Personal Development: Continue to promote wellbeing, responsibility and independence through forest schools, ELSA, Barnardo's and family learning courses.

Leadership and Management: Reviewing the school vision and values with Governors. Completion of the Climate Action Plan.

Early Years Education – Resurfacing of the new outdoor area.

Circulated by email for comment and approved following the full GB meeting on 22nd May 2025.

Hannah Cleasby

Chair of Governors

15th May 2025