

Annual Governance Statement 2025–2026

Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School

The Governing Body of Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School is pleased to present its Annual Governance Statement for the academic year 2025–2026.

In accordance with the Government's requirements, the Governing Body fulfils three core strategic functions:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction**
2. **Holding school leaders 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 ensuring that resources are used effectively and responsibly**

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

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

Highlights of the Year

The Governing Body is proud of the many achievements of the school during the past academic year. In line with our Christian vision and values, Temple Sowerby has maintained its strong track record in educational standards while continuing to provide a nurturing and enriching environment for all pupils.

Key successes this year include:

- Continued strong attainment, behaviour and attendance across the school.
- A broad programme of enrichment opportunities, including sporting, cultural and educational experiences that enhance pupils' personal development and widen their horizons.
- Sustained popularity of the school within the local community. Our Reception cohort has been full or oversubscribed for the last two years, with current projections indicating continued strong demand into 2027–2028 and beyond.
- Investment in staff development, with members of staff successfully completing nationally recognised leadership qualifications, including the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) and the National SENCO Award.
- Ongoing preparation for the school's forthcoming SIAMS inspection, ensuring that the school's Christian vision continues to underpin all aspects of school life.
- Strengthening of our international links through the Ankoma Outreach Appeal in Ghana. Following a successful visit by staff and pupils in February 2026, relationships with our partner school continue to flourish. We are particularly proud that Temple Sowerby has been chosen as one of the four houses within Abisu DA School's newly established House System. A member of staff has also agreed to coordinate future visits and partnership activities.
- Continued investment in the school environment, including resurfacing of outdoor areas, replacement of lighting throughout the school to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs, and installation of partition doors to enhance the learning environment within Class 1.
- Recruitment of new governors, bringing additional skills, perspectives and expertise to support the strategic leadership of the school.
- Strong and growing community partnerships. This year has seen the successful transition of our lunch provision to the The King's Arms, further strengthening links between the school and the local community.

The Governing Body has also continued to oversee effective budget management, policy review, safeguarding compliance and staff wellbeing initiatives, ensuring that the school remains well placed for future success.

Challenges and Change

The Governing Body has overseen the departure of both the School Business Manager and Clerk to Governors and has worked closely with school leaders to ensure continuity of operations and effective recruitment arrangements.

In addition, this year marks the retirement of our Headteacher. Governors would like to place on record their sincere thanks for the dedication, commitment and leadership shown throughout their service to the school. Their contribution has played a significant role in shaping the success and positive reputation that Temple Sowerby enjoys today.

Governors have carefully managed the recruitment process for a new Headteacher and are confident that the school is well positioned to build upon its many strengths as it enters this new chapter.

Strategic Priorities for the Future

Looking ahead, the Governing Body will continue to work closely with school leaders to ensure ongoing improvement and sustainability. Key priorities for the coming year include:

Achievement

- Further develop our Early Years provision to ensure all children make a strong start to their education.

Leadership and Governance

- Support the successful induction and ongoing professional development of the new Headteacher.
- Provide continued support and training for the new School Business Manager.
- Strengthen governance through ongoing recruitment, induction and professional development of governors.
- Progress preparations for SIAMS and ensure that the school's Christian vision remains central to decision-making and school improvement.

Behaviour and Attitudes

- Maintain the excellent standards of behaviour and positive attitudes to learning evident throughout the school.
- Continue to develop pupils' independence, resilience and leadership skills through initiatives such as Junior Dukes, Forest School and wider enrichment opportunities.

Attendance

- Sustain attendance levels that are above national averages through close partnership with families and early support where attendance concerns arise.
- Continue to promote the importance of regular attendance and punctuality as key contributors to pupil success and wellbeing.

Personal Development and Wellbeing

- Further develop child-led collective worship and opportunities for pupil leadership.
- Continue to provide a wide range of sporting, cultural and enrichment opportunities that broaden pupils' experiences.
- Promote emotional wellbeing and mental health through pastoral support, wellbeing initiatives and strong community links.

- Build upon the school's international partnership with Ankoma and strengthen pupils' understanding of global citizenship.

Inclusion

- Ensure that all pupils, including those with SEND and disadvantaged pupils, receive the support they need to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.
- Continue to foster an inclusive culture where every child feels valued, respected and able to succeed.

Early Years

- Enhance the outdoor learning and play environment to support communication, language, physical development and early mathematics.
- Develop further opportunities for high-quality play-based learning and exploration.
- Ensure children continue to be well prepared for successful transition into Key Stage 1.

Governors would like to thank all staff for their professionalism, commitment and care throughout the year. We are also grateful to our parents, carers, church partners and wider community for their continued support of the school.

Most importantly, we congratulate our pupils for their enthusiasm, resilience, kindness and achievements. They continue to embody the values of our school and make Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School a vibrant, caring and successful learning community.

As governors, we remain committed to ensuring that every child thrives academically, socially, spiritually and emotionally, and we look forward with confidence to the opportunities that lie ahead.

Circulated for comment and approved following the full GB meeting on 21st May 2026.

Hannah Cleasby

Chair of Governors

Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School

21st May 2026