

Annual Governance Statement

For

MANOR FARM COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL

Academic Year: 2024-2025

Approved by the Governing Body:

1. Scope of Responsibility

The Governing Body of Manor Farm Community Infant School carries out its functions in accordance with the Education Act 2002 and the Governance Handbook, ensuring the school provides the highest possible standards of education for all children aged 4 – 7 years.

We are responsible for setting the school's strategic direction, ensuring accountability, and overseeing the financial performance of the school to make sure funds are well spent.

2. Governance Structure

The Governing Body operates as a corporate body and has delegated certain functions to committees to ensure effective oversight.

During 2024 – 2025, governance was delivered through the following structure:

- Full Governing Body (FGB) – Meet termly to consider strategy, policies, and overall performance.

Committees:

- Strategy Working Group
- Curriculum & standards – Focus on pupil progress, teaching quality and curriculum development.
- Finance working group & Finance – Oversight of budget, staffing and premises.
- Estates/Health & Safety – maintenance, repair, and improvement of the school. Ensure the school complies with all Health & Safety legislation, including the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974.
- Extended Services (After School Club – Ensure that all extended services (e.g. wraparound care, community activities) align with the school's ethos, values, and strategic goals. Review how extended provision enhances the school's core educational offer (e.g. improved attendance, readiness for learning or family support).
- Personnel & Pay – Ensure the school has a staffing structure that supports the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and provides best value for money. Monitor staffing levels in relation to pupil numbers, curriculum needs and budget constraints.

Governors also hold individual link roles for areas such as Safeguarding, SEND, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Pupil Premium, English, Maths, Art, DT &

Music, History & Geography, Science, Sports Premium, PE and Forest School, Equality, Diversity and RE, PSHE & RSHE and Well-being.

Governors are allocated to year groups so the children know the governing board and have a voice.

3. Core Function of the Governing Body

The Governing Body focuses on the three statutory core functions:

- a) Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
 - Reviewed and refreshed the school's vision and Values Statement to reflect our nurturing and inclusive ethos.
 - Approved the School Development Plan (SDP) with clear priorities for literacy, attendance and wellbeing.
 - Supported the Headteacher in developing the long-term strategy for continuous improvement.
- b) Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
 - Regularly reviewed pupil progress and attainment data, including EYFS outcomes and KS1 results.
 - Undertook focused Governor visits on all link governor roles.
 - Monitored the impact of intervention for SEND and disadvantaged pupils.
- c) Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring value for money.
 - Approved a balanced budget for 2024-2025.
 - Monitored expenditure closely through termly finance reports.
 - Ensured that Pupil Premium and Sports Premium funds were used effectively and demonstrated clear impact.

4. Governance Impact in 2024 – 2025

During the academic year, the Governing Body has:

- Overseen the successful implementation of a new Phonics scheme, improving early reading outcomes.
- Over seen the Implementation of English and Maths Scheme again improving overall outcomes.
- Supported the development of a Wellbeing strategy for pupils and staff.
- Ensured compliance with Safeguarding standards, with termly visits and regular training.
- Reviewed and updated key policies including Safeguarding, Behaviour, and SEND.

5. Governor Training and Development

Governors have continued to strengthen their knowledge and effectiveness through:

- Local Authority governor training sessions and National College on Safeguarding, SEND, Cyber Security, Prevent awareness, Safer Recruitment, Data Protection & GDPR and Allegations and the Role of the LADO.
Completion of a skills audit to identify areas of development.
Participation in governor learning walks and school visits.

6. Future Priorities for 2025 – 2026

- Further develop early reading, writing and maths across EYFS and KS1.
- Strengthen parental engagement and community partnerships.
- Continue to monitor attendance and wellbeing post-pandemic.
- Maintain financial stability amid funding pressures.
- Support the development of subject leadership and assessment practice.

7. Declaration

The Governing Body confirms that all statutory requirements for governance have been met and that systems of internal control are effective.

On behalf of the Governing body, I am delighted to celebrate the recent achievements of Manor Farm Community Infant School. The school's latest Ofsted inspection, which rated the overall provision as **Good**, with **Early Years outstanding**, is a testament to the dedication, skill, and passion of our leadership team, staff and volunteers.

We are particularly proud of the excellent end-of-year results, reflecting the hard work and commitment of both staff and pupils. These outcomes demonstrate the school's continued focus on high-quality teaching, a nurturing environment and the development of every child's potential.

The governing body remains committed to supporting the school in maintaining and further improving its high standards. We look forward to building on this success, ensuring that Manor Farm Community Infant School continues to provide an exceptional educational experience for all its pupils.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved and thank the entire school community for their ongoing dedication and support.

Mrs Wendy Terry

Chair Of Governors.