



Godalming Junior School

GOVERNING BODY IMPACT STATEMENT 2025-2026

At Godalming Junior School, the Governing Body recognises the importance of identifying and demonstrating the impact of its governance. This impact statement is an effective way to share the strategic work of the Governing Body and its contribution to and impact on school improvement and development.

The Governing Body is responsible for three core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring effective use of resources

The table below details the variety of activities the Governing Body undertook in the 2025-26 academic year to fulfil our statutory duties.

CORE FUNCTION 1	ENSURE CLARITY OF VISION, ETHOS, AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION
Focused area of responsibility	Activity and evidence of impact
Recruitment of new Governors with key skills and experience.	Governors explored new avenues of recruitment to fill vacancies arising on the Governing Body. Crucially, the Governing Body was able to identify desirable skills in new recruits through the annual skills audit and target recruitment accordingly.
Improved clarity on roles and responsibilities of the FGB, Committees, Panels, Working Groups and Link Governors	There has been considerable effort this year to ensure every Governor, Committee, Panel and Working Group has clarity on what their responsibilities are through the drafting and amendment of Terms of Reference and Link Governor Role Descriptors. This project not only gives clarity to incumbent governors, but means when new governors are appointed to a specific role, the time it takes for them to become fully effective is much reduced.
Contribution to the drafting, review and monitoring of progress of the School Improvement Plan (SIP).	Governors have collaborated with all staff (including SLT) in drafting the SIP by attending a SIP INSET day in April 2026. Governors have been assigned specific monitoring tasks within the SIP (through their 'Link Governor' roles) and Governors made these the focus of their monitoring visits (both individual Link Governors and group learning walks). Governor Visit reports were completed after each monitoring activity and fed back to school staff, relevant Committees and the Full Governing Body.
Continued investigation of potential future collaborative	Whilst the Governing Body concluded in December 2024 that GJS should not pursue joining a multi-academy trust (MAT) as part of the Godalming Learning Partnership (GLP), Governors on the Strategic Future Working Group continue to explore

working opportunities for the school.	potential next steps for the school in terms of both academisation and its ongoing relationship with the GLP, always focusing on the best long-term interests of the school, its pupils and community.
Review and amendment (where necessary) of ALL school policies.	Governors reviewed and approved all statutory and non-statutory policies in line with the school's review cycle to ensure they are appropriate, up to date, and compliant with legislation. The triangulation of policy scrutiny, Governor visits and Governor meetings confirmed minimal gaps between policy and practice.

Core Function 3	Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
Focused area of responsibility	Activity and evidence of impact
Monitoring the progress and attainment of all pupils , being aware of different groups and local and national benchmarks.	The Governing Body, primarily through its Learning and Curriculum Committee, regularly reviewed pupil progress and attainment data. This allowed Governors to maintain oversight of the educational performance of different groups of pupils and drive further improvements. The Governing Body continued to support and challenge the school in improving its progress and outcomes in writing and closing the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils, whilst also taking into account the context at the school e.g. the increased range and complexity of needs at the school. The Governing Body welcomed external moderation reports substantiating teachers' assessment judgements.
Monitoring the highly effective adult deployment in teaching and learning.	The Governing Body, primarily through its Learning and Curriculum Committee, monitored the enhancements to the highly effective adult deployment (HEAD) practice in the classroom to further improve inclusive teaching and learning. The Committee 'climate' walk visit reports illustrate Governor acknowledgment and monitoring of this enhancement in teaching and learning and illustrates that the Governing Body is seeking to gain a greater understanding of the challenges faced by school staff.
Strengthening oversight of pupil behaviour and attitudes to learning .	The Governing Body oversaw the development of mechanisms that allow successful monitoring of attendance as well as the link between attendance and pupil progress through the introduction of an Attendance & Behaviour Link Governor. SLT have been asked to include attendance data alongside educational data at Learning & Curriculum Committee meetings.

Commented [JW1]: @Abi Gorringer are you happy with this section? I haven't added anything - only removed bits from last year. Please can you check it is still ok?

CORE FUNCTION 3	OVERSEEING THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE SCHOOL AND ENSURING EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES
Focused area of responsibility	Activity and evidence of impact
Maintenance of a healthy, financial position and ensuring sound financial governance .	The Governing Body, primarily through its Resources Committee, monitored the delivery of the 2025-26 budget and scrutinised and approved the 2026-27 budget which is sustainable, aligned to the School Improvement Plan, and incorporates all recommendations made in Surrey County Council's financial audit thus strengthening financial governance further.
Identification and monitoring of key risks to the school and developing mitigation strategies .	The Resources Committee continued discussions on risk management in 2025-26 and have updated the FGB's 'risk register', including but not limited to financial risks. Budget was stress tested against scenarios on falling pupil numbers and increased pupil need.
Approved financial investment in school facilities to ensure a more accessible school site.	The Resources Committee made funds available for the construction of a ramp into the Horsa Hut (dining hall and music room) and then oversaw the tendering process. The new ramp makes the school site more accessible to staff and pupils who are unable to navigate steps and stairs thus improving inclusivity in the school.
Supported tendering process for new catering provision.	Governors on the Resources Committee oversaw the tendering process for new catering provision which not only provides value for money, but improves administrative efficiency through synchronisation of school systems.
Initiated discussions on development of school site	Governors are keen to explore ways of keeping the temperature in classrooms at a comfortable level during the hot summer months
Completed the Schools Financial Value Standard .	The SFVS was carefully scrutinised, completed and returned, which is evidence of the governing body's oversight of the effective management of school finances. All benchmarking processes were fulfilled.
Ensured the effective use of the pupil premium and sports premium funding.	The Governing Body and its committees, reviewed and approved the Pupil Premium Strategy, ensuring the funding is well targeted and having a positive impact on pupil progress and outcomes. It also reviewed and approved the use of Sports Premium funding, ensuring it is effectively spent, and the desired outcomes are being achieved.

ENSURING THE GOVERNANCE OF THE SCHOOL IS EFFECTIVE

Governor attendance	Three Full Governing Body meetings took place in 2025-26, as well as 3 Resources Committee meetings and 3 Learning & Curriculum Meetings. All meetings were quorate and attendance records are available on the school website. In addition to Governors attending FGB and Committee meetings, a number of Governor Visits have taken place at school to allow Link Governors to deepen their understanding of the school. Outcomes of these meetings are recorded in Governor Visit forms which are then used to help the Governing Body to identify areas of strength and development. The following visits took place in 2025-26: • Monthly Chair of Governor visits with SLT • Head Teacher appraisal meetings (3) • Health and Safety link governor visits (2) • SEND link governor visits (2) • Safeguarding link governor visits (3) • Learning & Curriculum Committee Climate Walks (3) - primarily focused on quality of education • Involvement in KSNA visit at the school • Involvement in the Surrey County Council Financial Audit • Involvement in the Safeguarding Audit
Improving visibility of Governors within the school community	The Governing Body understands that a visible presence in the school community is important. The number of school events attended by Governors has increased this year. Events include: • Carol Concert (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6) • SIP INSET day • PTA Quiz • PTA Summer Fair • Year 6 Production
Development of Governor skills, knowledge and training	Governors are required to complete statutory annual training in addition to completing additional training which is relevant to their Link Governor role and the Committee or Panel they sit on. This training is logged and monitored to ensure compliance and development. The annual skills audit of the Governing Body was completed in Spring 2026 and the recruitment of new Governors was driven by the need to enhance skills on the Governing Body that were identified as below our target level.

	The Governing Body continued to evolve the range of Link Governor roles to best support the Full Governing Body as well as the Committees, Panels and Working Groups.
Stakeholder voice	The Governing Body reviewed the feedback provided by the staff, parents and pupils much of which verified that the school operates in line with its 'love, live, learn' motto. Where areas for development have been identified, the Governing Body has supported the school SLT with implementing changes. This has taken the form of staff survey, pupil anti-bullying and annual survey and gathering feedback from parents through the Ofsted ParentView survey portal. Signposting parents to this portal has been a standing item in the school weekly newsletter all year.