



Crossens Nursery School Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

Overview and Responsibilities

Our Board of Governors is wholly committed to fulfilling our school vision:

We intend for our children to be happy, caring, considerate and curious learners who are confident to attempt challenge, build resilience and feel secure within themselves.

Annually, we will publish this Governance Statement. It is a summary of our governance work for consideration by parents and carers, staff and other interested parties. The Statement explains the responsibilities of the Board and the way it meets those responsibilities. It outlines what the Board accomplished in the last academic year and its plans for the next year.

More information about the governors and what we do can be found on the Governance section of the school website.

OFSTED Judgement:

The Board is delighted that the school was judged as GOOD by OFSTED after their inspection in May 2024. This judgement has been achieved following the incredible commitment, care, hard work and dedication of the school team, with the much appreciated support of school governors and our families.

Responsibilities:

The three Core Strategic Functions of the Governing Board are:

- Ensure Clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.
- Hold Executive Leaders to account for educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff.
- Oversee the financial performance of the organisation and make sure money is well spent.

The day to day management of the school is the responsibility of the Head Teacher, Beth Brice.

The governing board also ensures that the school complies fully with statutory safeguarding procedures. All staff and governors are required to read DfE statutory

guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education”. The governing body works with the safeguarding lead in school to complete and approve the annual safeguarding audit.

2. The composition of the governing board

Name	Type of Governor
Mrs Beth Brice	Headteacher
Ms Nicola Cave	Chair / Co-Opted Governor
Mr Gary Haythornthwaite	Vice Chair / Co-Opted Governor
Ms Kim Ardron	Co-Opted Governor
Mrs Sarah Howard	Parent Governor – leaving July 2024
Mr Peter Winter	Parent Governor
Ms Sarah Mercer	Co-Opted Governor
Ms Sarah Parry (Smith)	Co-Opted Governor
Mr Martin Sarbutts	Local Authority Governor – leaving December 2024
Ms Vicky Copeland	Staff Governor
Mr Geoff Thornton	Finance Officer
Mrs Sue Counsell	Wigan Governor Services

From July 2024, there will be a Parent Governor vacancy to fill and a Local Authority vacancy to fill from December 2024.

3. Meetings of the governing board and attendance

The Full Governing Board meets four times a year. All meetings are minuted and supported by a trained professional clerk. The Board has additional committees which at different points in the year, e.g. Pay Committee.

Minutes of the full board and its two principal committees are available on request.

Governors are required to have good attendance at meetings. Apologies for non-attendance are considered and recorded. All governors are aware that poor attendance may result in removal from the board.

4. The remit of the governing board and its committees

The Headteacher completes a self-evaluation of the school each year taking into account the school’s internal monitoring, changes to the assessment of pupils and the curriculum and the most recent Ofsted report. The self-evaluation then informs our annual School Improvement Plan. The Board approves both of these documents. The Board is also required to approve the school budget and to monitor its implementation.

The Governing Board is charged with holding the Headteacher accountable for achieving the agreed objectives within the plan. It does so through its Full Governing Board meetings, its Committee meetings and its monitoring activities.

Individual governors assume monitoring responsibility for:

- Safeguarding
- Curriculum
- SEND
- Health and Safety
- Website Compliance
- EYPP
- Data
- GDPR
- Headteacher Performance Management
- Staff well-being

A full list of governors and their responsibilities can be found in the Governance section of the school website.

5. The work of the Governing board 2023/24

The day to day work and decisions of the board are recorded in the minutes of the full governing board and its committees. The Chair of Governors and the Head met regularly. Other achievements and actions include:

- The Governors completed Safeguarding training and have sought pricing for accessing the training on Governor Hub.
- The Board welcomed a new Governor earlier in the year.
- Governors contributed to the OFSTED inspection in May. This included supporting the staff team during the evening prior to inspection, answering questions with the Lead Inspector on Day 1 of the inspection, and returning on Day 2 for the final feedback.
- Governors approved improvements to the Nursery Garden, which were completed during the October half-term 2023.
- Governors approved the school budget and continues to review and approve regular policy updates.
- Governors undertook the Headteacher's Performance Review and approved the outcomes of all staff reviews.

- Governors have been monitoring the School Improvement Plan and are aware of potential targets for 2024/25.
- Governors have completed the skills audit.
- The Chair of Governors has 'checked-in' regularly with the staff team to support well-being. The staff wellbeing day was also approved and this was a huge success in November 2023.
- The Governors have learnt about how the Nursery is promoting 'Social Signature' amongst the Nursery children, e.g. purchasing books for the library, litter picking in the community.
- The Board has overcome financial challenges and looks forward to a more positive financial outlook for 2024/25.
- Positive feedback from parents and carers has been shared with the Governors and such will help inform potential 'You said, We did' actions.
- Governors are happy that the Nursery has 'built its brand' with the new website, new mission statement, increased engagement in the Community and, consequently, its increase in pupil numbers.
- Governors have provided plenty of challenge and support during the meetings which is supporting school improvement and Headteacher well-being.

Governance Objectives for 2024/25

1. The Board will continue its programme of monitoring the effectiveness of governance.
2. Governors will agree and complete a revised Governor Skills Analysis. The Board/school will provide training and learning opportunities to meet any identified needs.
3. Information will be shared with parents and carers with regards to the role of the governors so everyone is aware of who the governors are and how they support the school
4. All Governors will meet with staff and pupils at certain points in the year. This may be during specific Governor visits or additional opportunities, such as the Summer Fair, the Macmillan Coffee Morning etc.
5. Training content on GovernorHub will be purchased and accessed by all Governors to support CPD.

6. Governors will challenge school to ensure that the quality of its teaching, learning and all aspects of the school experience are not only maintained as 'Good' (OFSTED 2024) but continuously developed and improved.
7. Governors will continue to actively support the monitoring and development of the Crossens Nursery School vision, designed to develop pupils beyond the curriculum.
8. The Board will continue to be proactive in encouraging the development of healthy lifestyles, fitness and wellbeing amongst pupils and staff.