

## **Excalibur Primary School**

### **Governor Impact Statement 2024-2025**

This Governing Board Impact Statement is produced annually and is a public document.

The statement includes how:

- we work as a Local Governing Board (LGB)
- we align with the vision and values of the school
- we work with the Headteacher, in line with the school improvement and development plan
- we work within Chancery Multi Academy Trust
- we develop and action our plans to sustain school improvement and impact.

#### **Role of the Governing Board**

The governors of the school have a range of duties and powers determined by Government legislation and the Scheme of Delegation of Chancery Multi Academy Trust. Working in partnership with the Headteacher, the governors meet on a half-termly basis to discuss key issues and make decisions. The Chair and Vice Chair meet with the Headteacher ahead of each governors meeting. The Local Governing Board does not operate a committee structure, but governors are encouraged and expected to develop specialisms and work to their strengths. There is a particular emphasis on governors being involved, where possible, in the life of the school.

We are committed to working together to ensure the children at Excalibur receive a full, balanced and enriched education.

We are responsible for supporting school leaders to set the school's vision and strategy; promoting high standards of educational achievement; oversight of the school budget and monitoring progress on the School Development Plan.

## Who are the Governing Board?

Members of the Local Governing Board are unpaid volunteers who have varied backgrounds and educational experiences. As of July 2025, our governors are:

Governor	Type of Governor	Additional Responsibilities
Mrs Juliet Jones	Headteacher	
Gill Burgess	Co-opted	
Tom Egley	Co-opted	
Kay Griffin	Staff	
Rachel Hackney	Co-opted	Vice chair of Governors – link for Early years and pupil premium
Felicity Hawkins	Co-opted	
Rachel Morrison	Parent	
Shaun Smith	Co-opted	
Sarah Sproston	Co-opted	Link for H&S and Finance
Ian White	Co-opted	Chair of Governors, Link for SEND (Special educational needs and disabilities)
Philip Yeomans	Parent	

This year has seen the introduction of some new governors which has enabled us to further develop our range of skills and expertise we offer as a governing board.

Further information on the Governing Board, including terms of office, declarations of business interest and governor attendance at meetings, can be found on the school website.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role of a governor, or have any questions for the local governing board, please contact [chair@excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:chair@excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk)

## Vision and Values

The Governing Board is completely aligned to the vision and values of Excalibur School and we strive to:

- provide a safe, nurturing and secure environment where every child can achieve their full potential
- prepare children for their future
- acknowledge and celebrate all efforts within school
- value and respect everyone as an individual
- educate our children about equality and diversity

- meet the needs of all individuals
- encourage everyone to be a part of and to contribute to the school community
- encourage everyone to make healthy life choices

### **Governing Body Impact**

Over the 2024-25 academic year, we have:

- Supported Mrs Jones as head and acted as a critical friend.
- Had oversight of the funding, finance and had oversight of property matters (to seek to ensure that children and staff have a safe and pleasant working environment)
- Received presentations from staff with subject leadership responsibilities across the curriculum.
- Monitored and challenged pupil attendance and progression data through snap shots presented at governor meetings, in particular where attendance or progress may be of a concern.
- Visited the school during this academic year to meet staff, parents and pupils during both formal and informal visits. One governor volunteers in school every Monday morning. All governors were made to feel welcome when they joined in for a variety of school events, including: carol concerts at St Marys; the Year 6 leavers assembly; school productions; sports day and Rock Steady concerts. A particular focus in the autumn of 2025 has been the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the School moving to the Ivy Lane site in 1965. The Chair, who was a pupil in 1965, led on the celebrations and arranged and hosted two gala evenings at school with Choir and two superb young soloists. A celebration brochure, sponsored by local businesses, was produced and shared with all staff and members of the choir as well as the sponsors themselves. All who attended the gala evenings received a copy. These celebration events, together with kind donations, raised almost £3500 for the nurture room project at School.
- During more formal visits to school, governors focus on a particular 'link' area, to gain a better understanding of how Excalibur is supporting our pupils. The visiting governor then reports on their visit to the Headteacher, to the governing body and to Chancery Trust. This helps us to celebrate achievements of staff and pupils, discuss areas for development and spread good practise within school and the wider Chancery Trust.
- Governors carry out an annual skills audit to identify strengths and areas for development. To consolidate the boards skill set during this academic year governors had available to them, a variety of training courses, including Induction, Inclusive Governance, Data Protection, Safeguarding, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), Understanding Academy Finance/Funding, Home Office Prevent, Cyber Security and Health and Safety (H&S).
- Strengthened links with Chancery Trust through a link with Trust Board member attending LGB meetings from time to time, . Excalibur governors attended termly meetings, (eg SEND, safeguarding and H&S) with representatives from other Trust schools to share good practice and discuss current

issues/challenges. Governors also attended the annual Chancery Trust governors' forum both on line and in person

- Governors consider that Excalibur is a good school and this was recognised by OFSTED during their inspection in October 2023. The report concluded that the quality of education was good, behaviour and attitudes outstanding, personal development good, leadership and management good and early years provision outstanding. In their report they stated that 'Governors and trustees are clear about the school's priorities and they perform both their statutory and delegated duties well. They support and challenge both the work of the school and the trust. The school is highly supportive of staff's workload and well-being. Staff were extremely positive about working at Excalibur and they feel that leaders' actions make them feel valued. For example, leaders involve staff when reviewing policies and procedures.'

### **Future Aims and Intentions**

**Focus** - The welfare of the school community continues to be a focus for the LGB along with improving pupil attendance and behaviour, improving standards for our disadvantaged children and ensuring, through effective leadership, that our children receive quality teaching. We will continue to support the Senior Leadership Team and staff with training focused on the current needs of pupils with an Educational, Health and Care Plan, SEND and Pupil Premium.

### **The School has a number of immediate plans including:**

#### **Our nurture room**

We seek to enhance the learning experience and emotional well-being of our children and are developing

our nurture room – a dedicated space that supports children with a wide range of additional needs, particularly those with social, emotional and mental health challenges (SEMH), low esteem, difficulties in

emotional regulation, and limited social interaction, These barriers can significantly impact their ability to engage with learning in a traditional classroom setting.

#### **Our forest school**

We have ambitious plans to develop a forest school area which will benefit the wider school community. Literally, watch this space!

#### **Our outdoor healthy environment**

The boundaries of the school site are as they were 60 years ago but this is, in terms of the playing fields, where the similarity ends. There is progressive and interactive use of the space, supporting and developing pupil confidence in a suitable and supervised way. We look to further develop this work so that everyone in school can benefit from this lovely space.

Funding bids for these and other projects are in hand but ideas for funding are always welcome.

## **Our community partners**

We all know that education today is increasingly about partnership – with funders, with the wider community and with businesses. Governors have been working hard to support these relationships.

We are delighted that the school has been approved as the first Corporate sponsor of the **Rotary Club of Alsager**. This opens up the possibility of closer future links with Rotary – Including possible help with some school projects and also the possibility of Rotary awards in some aspects of school life. We look forward to developing this relationship.

**Tesco Kidsgrove** has supported the school wonderfully during this year with significant grants to some of our projects. Matthew Wright their community champion has been a brilliant support to us.

**Sainsbury's Alsager** opened in February 2025 and we are of course the closest primary school to that store. One of our pupils Betsy, currently in year 6 designed the bag for life for the opening and we are so proud of her. Edward Abbott, their Community champion is another great support to us.

We are looking to develop further partnerships with businesses and community groups. Please contact the Headteacher or the Chair if your employer, company or group would like to become a community partner here at Excalibur.

**Challenges** – the vast majority of UK schools are facing challenges trying to balance the funding it receives to the actual running costs. Governors, alongside Chancery Trust Central Team, regularly review the budgets set by Excalibur to ensure, where possible, efficiencies are made and that we get value for money on anything spent. Governors have, and continue to have, a variety of training opportunities to ensure we understand and apply best practice principles when agreeing and overseeing Excalibur's budget. Funding for SEND is a national issue and during the autumn term our MP Sarah Russell was invited into school and heard our concerns in this area.

**Parents/Carers** - Governors would like to encourage all parents/carers to get involved in school life, whether its supporting the fabulous work Friends of Excalibur (our Parent Teacher Association) do in raising funds to support every pupil at Excalibur, or to read daily with your child and ask them about their school day - what they learnt, have they struggled with anything and what was their favourite lesson. As school try to improve the attendance and behaviour of pupils, we would hope that parents are able to support this by helping their child understand its importance and effect on learning. Friends of Excalibur reformed during this year and are led on a collaborative basis and continue to do an incredible job in raising funds to support our pupils with extra things that our budget doesn't allow for, and arranging social activities. Friends of Excalibur do need ongoing support from parents/carers/grandparents. We would also encourage the parent community to support school staff who strive to do their very best for all our pupils.

We hope that this statement helps to outline the many aspects of our work and I and encourages further and wider involvement and support in the life of our school.

**Ian White**

**Chair of Governors on behalf of Excalibur Governors**

**December 2025**