Middlewich Primary School

Annual Statement of Governance 2025/26

The three core strategic functions of the Middlewich Primary School Governing Board are:

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; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Board operates under the circle model of governance, with the full Board meeting each half term. This ensures that all governors share responsibility and maintain a clear understanding of the school's strategic priorities, challenges and progress.

We retain one standing committee, the Staffing Committee, with additional committees convened when required.

Governors also hold individual link responsibilities and undertake visits throughout the year. These visits allow governors to gain a greater understanding of the work taking place within school and provide additional evidence alongside the information presented at Governing Board meetings.

Governors continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to the school through excellent attendance at meetings.

The Work and Impact of the Governing Board

A major focus of the Governing Board is monitoring the school's three-year School Development and Improvement Plan (SDIP). Progress is reviewed regularly, with governors providing both support and challenge to school leaders and seeking evidence of the impact of actions being taken.

Educational outcomes have continued to receive significant attention. Governors have closely monitored developments in English, including the implementation of Literacy Counts through Ready Steady Read and Ready Steady Write. Improvements in reading have been encouraging, while improving writing outcomes remains a key priority. Governors have used performance information, link visits and reviews of pupils' work to monitor progress and challenge leaders.

Attendance and disadvantaged pupils remain an important focus. Governors have requested increasingly detailed information to understand differences between groups of pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils. We have also monitored the school's RADY approach and continue to challenge leaders to demonstrate the impact of support provided.

Safeguarding, SEND and inclusion are monitored throughout the year. Governors receive regular safeguarding reports and undertake termly safeguarding visits, including checks of the Single Central Record and safeguarding processes. Governors have also monitored SEND provision and challenged leaders to ensure that pupils with additional needs can access the wider opportunities available within school.

Governors continue to consider staff wellbeing and workload, including feedback from staff surveys. We have also reviewed the school's enrichment offer, challenging leaders to ensure that educational visits, residentials and other opportunities provide value and remain accessible to all pupils.

Financial Oversight

Governors regularly review the school's budget and three-year financial plan. We recognise the financial pressures facing schools and continue to challenge assumptions within forecasts and seek explanations for significant changes.

Our aim is to ensure that resources are directed towards the school's strategic priorities while maintaining a sustainable financial position.

Policies and Governor Development

Governors review and approve a wide range of statutory and school policies throughout the year through a planned programme of review.

The Governing Board contains governors from a range of professional and personal backgrounds, providing a valuable mix of educational knowledge and experience from outside education. Governors undertake training throughout the year and we continue to review our skills and recruit new governors where this will strengthen the Board.

Priorities for 2026/27

During 2026/27, governors will continue to monitor the full School Development and Improvement Plan, with particular focus on:

- improving writing outcomes;
- attendance and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils;
- safeguarding, SEND and inclusion;
- staff wellbeing and workload; and
- maintaining a sustainable financial position.

Our role will continue to be one of constructive challenge and support: celebrating the successes of the school while asking appropriate questions where improvement is required and ensuring that decisions remain focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for the children of Middlewich Primary School.

Contacting the Governing Board

We welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and the wider school community.

The Chair of Governors, Mr David Atkinson, can be contacted via the school office. Further information about the Governing Board, including governors, responsibilities, attendance and meeting information, can be found on the Governors' section of the school website.