

Operational & Strategic Decisions Protocol

Date of approval: March 2026

Date of next review: Spring/ Summer

2028

Agreed by Whitchurch Primary School Governing Body	Name
Chair of Governing Body	Peter Tenconi & Deepa Samani
Headteacher	Rachel Inniss

Date	Changes made
March 2026	

Operational & Strategic Decisions Protocol

At Whitchurch Primary School we strive to build strong relationships with parents, carers and visitors in order to help create a stimulating, happy and safe learning environment, which continues from school to home and the wider community, providing all our pupils with the opportunity to achieve their personal best. The trust, support and co-operation of parents is fundamental to the continued success of our school.

We will always seek, where possible, to work with parents / carers in a positive manner to ensure the highest standards within school. We value the home / school relationship and, where appropriate, regularly seek the views of our community, and often choose to share the rationale for our decisions. Whilst it is never our intention to disappoint, given a community of our size, we must accept that it is not always possible to secure agreement on all issues. It is important to note that some decisions are not open to negotiation and that securing agreement is not necessary in some cases. In choosing to send your child to **Whitchurch Primary School**, we ask that parents / carers understand that all schools have the right to make key operational and strategic decisions without agreement from parents. This position is protected by law.

The following list is not exhaustive, but offers examples of areas where the school retains the right to make such decisions:

- Decisions around setting, choice of teacher, class group, teaching assistant, form tutor, tutor group or tier of entry for examinations
- Decisions regarding Behaviour or Uniform Policy (parents cannot choose for their child to 'opt out' of either policy or any of the sanctions outlined within). Indeed, parental permission or approval is not required for the issuing of a detention or Internal Exclusion.
- The nature of our rewards system and how we choose to implement it.
- Choice of curriculum content, resources or approaches to Teaching and Learning.
- Our Quality Assurance procedures, approaches to homework or marking.
- The nature of our extra-curricular offer.
- Timing of INSET / Training Days or other key events within the school calendar.
- The content and delivery of our internal policies and protocols.

Decisions are made in good faith and on the basis of what we consider to be in the best interests of our pupils, our community or the effective running of the school. We will use our professional judgement, expertise and experience and operate in line with DfE advice or statutory / legal frameworks in making key decisions.

We endeavour to keep parents / carers informed regarding key decisions, where appropriate, whilst also ensuring that communications to parents are kept at an acceptable level; it is, therefore, not possible or necessary to share all decisions or enter into dialogue about the rationale.

As stated, we will always listen to concerns that are shared with the school in a respectful manner (in line with our published Communications Policy).

Please note, however, that listening does not mean that a decision will necessarily change, or that that we do not care. Sometimes we may have to respectfully agree to disagree.

Following the Complaints Procedure will not change a decision unless it determines that the school has acted unlawfully or outside agreed policy positions.

Please be aware that plans change from time to time, this is often beyond our control. We will inform parents / carers as soon as possible but ask for your understanding.

Given the huge volume of complex decisions we make, we will not always get everything right, we are human and will always aim to operate with the best intentions. Above all we ask parents / carers to be kind, as working together positively ensures that we can better meet the needs of Whitchurch Primary children.

Please note: Our published Communications Policy outlines acceptable behaviour, how we will respond to abuse and the legal protections in place.