



Pewsey Vale School Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

INTRODUCTION

The Governors of Pewsey Vale School have produced an annual statement for parents and all other stakeholders connected to our school. To do so is considered to be good practice and provides some insight into the role of the Governing Body.

THE FULL GOVERNING BODY AND ITS COMMITTEES

Pewsey Vale School is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. It has legal ownership of the school site and acts as an employer of staff. The Governors are the directors of the company (and trustees of the charity).

The Governing Body delegates to the Head and staff the responsibility for running the school in line with the agreed vision, aims, ethos and strategic direction, and is not normally involved in decisions about the day-to-day running of the school.

We the Governors are committed to making sure Pewsey Vale School provides the very best standard of education for all of its pupils. We aim to ensure all children fulfil and exceed their potential. We expect the highest behaviour and attendance standards.

The Governing Body meets every term (six times a year). The Governing Body is made up mostly of people independent of the school, but it also includes the Head (who is an “ex officio” Governor), parent Governors and a staff Governor. All Governors are volunteers, with the exception of the Head and any staff Governors, and all dedicate their time and efforts into providing a thriving school for your children.

Should you have any questions about the role of the Governing Body please do not hesitate to contact our Clerk clerk@pewsey-vale.wilts.sch.uk

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Governors recognize, support and abide by the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life:

Selflessness

We will act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

We will avoid placing ourselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence us in our work.

We will not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for ourselves, our family, or our friends. We will declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

We will act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.





Accountability

We are accountable to the public for our decisions and actions and will submit ourselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

We will act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information will not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

We will be truthful.

Leadership

We will exhibit these principles in our own behaviour. We will actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

We will apply the highest standards and will:

1. act within our powers
2. promote the success of the trust
3. exercise independent judgement
4. exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence
5. avoid conflicts of interest
6. not accept benefits from third parties
7. declare interest in proposed transactions or arrangements

COMPASS

The Governors fully endorse the school's adoption of the Compass for Life framework. This programme is a framework that provides students with a formula that empowers them to take responsibility for their own learning and to achieve their ambitions in partnership with their teachers. It is not limited to just academic goals and it is designed to inspire and empower children to follow their dreams. It also supports every aspect of learning in the current curriculum and gives meaning to the subjects the students are being taught.

THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND ITS COMMITTEES

The role of the Governing Body is:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the delivery, in line with the school's ethos, of the agreed strategy to achieve the vision
- Promoting the personal development and wellbeing of students and staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well-spent.

The Governing Body has three committees to which some of its functions are delegated: the Strategic Group, Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, and Finance & Facilities. These committees also meet every term (six times a year), prior to each Full Governing Body Meeting. The minutes from the three Committees are documented and discussed at the Full Governing Body meetings.





The Strategic Group is comprised of the Chairs of the other two committees, the Chair of Governors, the Vice Chair of Governors, and the Head Teacher and meets prior to the Full Governing Body meetings. The group is focussed on school development and strategic direction.

The Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Committee oversees the curriculum and its provision in the school. It also monitors personnel matters. One of its tasks is to ensure consistent high-quality teaching throughout the school, allowing pupils to make excellent progress during their time here.

Detailed financial monitoring and challenge takes place in the Finance and Facilities Committee. It reports to the Governing Body on the financial performance of the school, recommends school budgets, and ensures the school's finances are regularly monitored and that money is spent sensibly and in a way that provides good value.

The performance of the Head Teacher is scrutinised by a panel of three members of the Governing Body in conjunction with our School Improvement Partner. Educational performance and personal development targets are set for the Head to help drive the process of school improvement. Regular assessments of the quality of teaching are undertaken by the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team.

At regular intervals the Head Teacher or members of the Senior Leadership Team present the Governing Body and Committees with detailed reports, which include information on attendance, behaviour, pupil progress and attainment data, and significant news.

We link Governors to areas of responsibility such as Health & Safety, Facilities, Careers, Capital Culture, Teaching and Learning, Staff Liaison, Community, Safeguarding, SEND and Pupil Premium. Governors undertake a wide range of training to ensure they are kept up-to-date with changes in education and we have carried out a skills audit within the Governing Body to make sure the knowledge and professional background of our members is being used effectively.

For further details on the governing body and its members please visit the welcome section of the school website at www.pewsey-vale.org. I am also very happy to discuss the role of the Governing Body further with you.

I look forward to meeting you at future school events.

Yours sincerely

Tracy Richards
Chair of the Governing Body

