ELTHAM
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SINCE 1814

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Annual Governance Statement
for Eltham Church of England Primary School
Governing Body
September 2026

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
2. Ensuring that the headteacher performs his or her responsibilities for the educational performance of the school
3. Ensuring the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

Governance arrangements

The Eltham Church of England Primary School Governing Body is made up of:

- Seven Foundation governors (four SDBE/four PCC)
- Two Parent governors
- One Foundation governor
- One Co-opted governor
- One Staff governor
- One Headteacher: Ex-officio by virtue of office as headteacher
- One Parish Priest: Ex-officio by virtue of office as parish priest
- One Associate Member (Interim DHT) without voting rights

To contribute to effective governance and the success of the school, Governors are expected to:

1. Enhance the work of the Governing Body to enable a strong focus on raising standards, so that every child achieves their potential.
2. Understand the school and its performance through reviewing data, monitoring impact of teaching on pupil outcomes, understanding the financial status of the school and the best use of its funds and understanding the challenges and national landscape that the school faces internally and externally.
3. Take personal responsibility for their ongoing training and development including safeguarding in line with the 'Keeping Children Safe In Education' policy.
4. Attend meetings (Governing Body/working groups) and play an active part.
5. Prepare for meetings so they are well informed, having read all of the papers sent out with the agenda.
6. Recognise the corporate status of the Governing Body and the concept of collective responsibility.
7. Respect confidentiality and the need to act with circumspection. Governors are required to sign up to the Governors Code of Conduct and sign Standing Orders each year.

The Governing Body has a programme of meetings throughout the school year with each governor having a specific area of responsibility. Minutes of these meetings are available to be viewed in school.

Attendance record of governors

A record is kept by the clerk to the Governing Body of Governors' attendance at meetings and recent attendance records can be found below. Governors' attendance at meetings is excellent.

The work we have done in the Governing Body meetings

The work we have done in all meetings revolves around the school improvement plan. Our priorities for the academic year 2025/26 are:

- To work closely and effectively with the Headteacher and all staff to ensure that teaching and learning is a strength and that pupils make good progress and achievement including vulnerable groups
- To become actively involved in the life of the school; visiting the classes to monitor teaching and learning of specific subjects and the delivery of the curriculum
- To ensure that the school remains financially sustainable
- To ensure that the school is meeting Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Child Protection, Educational Visits and premises requirements and following procedures

We have done this by:

- Ensuring the Headteacher has a robust appraisal and accountability schedule.
- Assigning subjects for each governor ("link" subjects) whereby the link governor works with the staff subject leader to:-
    - monitor the quality of provision
    - monitor the progress and attainment of all pupils
    - ask for evidence to assess provision, attainment and impact (for example, through school visits, book examinations, report monitoring, discussions with children and staff).
- Examining and challenging internal and external performance and progress data.
- Robust challenge and monitoring of staffing and financial management of the school.
- Ensuring the judgement of the staff and Headteacher is in line with local and national standards through external validation.
- Creating committees for Personnel, Finance and Curriculum to have oversight, monitor and give formal input as necessary (committee remits below).
- Ensuring the individual needs of pupils are met, through interventions, by the scrutiny of data and regular visits by governors.
- Ensuring that all safeguarding and child protection systems are robust, effective and well communicated.

In addition we have undertaken our statutory duties with regard to:

- Performance management of the Headteacher
- Reviewing and updating statutory policies
- Monitoring the effectiveness of pupil premium and sports funding

Governors have undertaken a variety of training at the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, as well as Royal Borough of Greenwich on; Analysing School Performance, Ofsted inspection framework, being a governor of a faith school, safeguarding and SEND.

The minutes of the Governing Body are public documents which are available to view on request at the school office. They can only be published once they have been agreed as a 'true record 'of the meeting at the next Governors meeting.

Committee Remits

The governors meet with the Headteacher termly to discuss: Finance, Personnel, Curriculum and Faith. The remit of these committees is as follows:

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee oversees the school's financial planning, monitoring and compliance. It supports the headteacher in setting and managing the annual budget, reviews in-year spending and ensures best value in the use of public funds. The committee also monitors funding streams such as Pupil Premium and PE & Sport Premium and reviews key financial policies.

Personnel Committee: The Personnel Committee supports the headteacher in all matters relating to staffing, recruitment, performance management and staff wellbeing. It monitors workforce structure, ensures safer recruitment practices are followed and contributes to decisions on pay, policies and HR processes, including grievances and capability where required.

Curriculum Committee: The Curriculum Committee works with the headteacher and subject leads to monitor the quality of education across the school. It reviews curriculum planning, teaching and learning outcomes and how the school supports different groups of learners. The committee also oversees statutory requirements such as Religious Education, Collective Worship, Special Educational Needs and Disability, and Relationships, Sex and Health Education and evaluates the impact of school improvement priorities.

Governors work with the headteacher and parish representatives to uphold the school's Christian distinctiveness and values. They monitor collective worship, RE provision and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. The committee supports the school's relationship with the church and Diocese and ensures alignment with the school's foundation and ethos.

Strategic Planning for the future - Our aims for the forthcoming year:

1. To be actively involved in the delivery of teaching and learning, giving insight into how individual subjects are action planned and delivered, thus holding the Headteacher and SLT to account for teaching and learning standards.
2. To maintain the school's OFSTED rating of Good judgement with particular focus on the changes in inspection framework and recommendations in the report.
3. To ensure that the school is in a financially stable position with regard to the increasing funding demands.

The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers, so please get in touch via the school office.

Declarations of interests - Are recorded on the school website and declared at each meeting.

How to contact your Governing Body - Information about the school's Governing Body is available on the Governors 'page of the school's website or by asking any member of staff or visiting the school office.

The Federated Governing Body – membership 2026/27

Governor	Category/Appointment Body	Committee Membership	Date of Appointment	Term of office expiry	Pecuniary or Material Interests
Denise Williams (*Chair*)	Foundation - SDBE	Finance/Personnel /Curriculum	1 June 2026	1 June 2030	None
Cate Rees (*Vice-Chair of Finance & HR*)	Foundation - SDBE	Personnel (*Chair*)/Faith	14 December 2023	14 December 2027	None

Glory Owen	Foundation - PCC	Finance (*Chair*)/Personnel	23 September 2021	23 September 2026	None
Patricia Gooding	Foundation - PCC	Finance/Curriculum/Faith	2 October 2018	2 October 2026	None
Sandra Allen	Parent - elected by school parents	Personnel/Curriculum	1 June 2026	1 June 2030	None
Ramya Julian	Parent - elected by school parents		18 September 2025	18 September 2029	None
Adam Kennedy	Foundation - PCC	Finance/Curriculum	23 September 2021	23 September 2026	None
Rebecca Perkins (*Safeguarding governor*)	Local Authority		14 May 2025	14 May 2029	None
Katie Griffiths	Staff - elected by staff		23 July 2025	23 July 2029	None
Charlotte Rhodes	Ex-officio by virtue of office: Interim Headteacher	Finance/Personnel/Curriculum/Faith	September 2026	Not recorded	None
Rev. Caroline Risdon	Ex-officio by virtue of office: Parish Priest	Faith (Chair)	1 June 2021	Not recorded	None
Tim Windsor Brown	Foundation - SDBE		23 June 2025	23 June 2029	Leader of New Community church who rent school hall on Sundays.

Attendance Record of Full Governing Body Meetings - over last academic year

	Attendance of Full Governing Body Meetings				
Governor	**Dec 2025**	**Jan 2026**	**March 2026**	**June 2026**	**September 2026**
Celia Niven	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present
Denise Williams	Not in role	Not in role	Not in role	Not in role	Present
Cate Rees	Absent	X	Absent	Present	Present
Elaine Williams De Cernuto. Term now ended.	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Absent

Glory Owen	Absent	X	Present	Present	Absent
Alberta Rosenior Term now ended	Absent	X	Absent	Present	Absent
Patricia Gooding	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Present
Irina Jarrett-Thorpe Term now ended.	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Absent
Ramya Julian	Not in role	Not in role	Not in role	Not in role	Present
Sandra Allen	Not in role	Not in role	Not in role	Not in role	Present
Adam Kennedy	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Rebecca Perkins	Not in role	Not in role	Present	Absent	Present
Katie Griffiths	H Feeney present	H Feeney present	Not in role	Not in role	Present
Rev. Caroline Risdon	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present
Rupert Osborn. Term now ended.	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	Present
Tim Windsor Brown	Not in role	Not in role	Not in role	Present	Present
Daniel Bull (term now ended)	Present	Present	Present	n/a	n/a
Maryanne Boon Interim Headteacher	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Charlotte Rhodes	Not in role	Not in role	Not in role	Not in role	Present

Attendance Record of Committee Meetings - over last academic year

P - Present

A – Apologies received

X – Absent

Elaine Cernuto stepped down on 1.6.2026
Daniel Bull stepped down on 1.6.2026
Irina Jarrett-Thorpe atepped down on 1.6.2026
Denise Williams joined as a SDBE Governor on 1.6.2026
Sandra Allen joined as a Parent Governor on 1.6.2026
Rupert Osborn stepped down on 1.6.26

Curriculum Committee

	Oct 25	**March 26**	**July 26**
Celia Niven	P	P	P
Elaine Cernuto	P	P	X
Patricia Gooding	P	P	A
Maryanne Boon	P	P	P
Alberta Rosenior	P	Term ended	Term ended
Ramya Julian	P	P	P
Laura Gibbs	P	P	P
Denise Williams	Not in role	Not in role	P
Charlotte Bailey Guest teacher - Writing	P	X	X
Shem Williams ICT Subject Leader	X	X	P

Personnel Committee

	Oct 25	**March 26**	**July 26**
Cate Rees	P	P	P
Maryanne Boon	P	P	P
Celia Niven	P	X	P
Glory Owen	P	P	A
Rupert Osborn	P	A	A
Denise Williams	Not in role	Not in role	A
Vanesa Ruibal School Business Manager	P	P	P

Finance Committee

	Oct 25	**March 26**	**July 26**
Celia Niven	P	A	P
Maryanne Boon	P	P	P
Rupert Osborn	P	A	P
Adam Kennedy	A	A	A
Patricia Gooding	P	P	A
Glory Owen	P	P	A
Elizabeth Clarke SBM	P	P	A
Richard Wood School Bursar	P	P	P