



Cockton Hill Infants' School

Nurture – Experience – Respect - Community

Introduction

The core strategic functions of the Governing Body are to:

1. **To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**
2. **To hold the Headteacher to account for educational performance of the school and its pupils**
3. **To oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent**

These functions compliment the School's Vision and Values of:

Each child to reach their potential within a happy school environment. To achieve this, we have four key values (Nature Experience, Respect, and Community) that underpin both our curriculum and indeed school life.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body was re-constituted in February 2015 and consists of the following members:

The Headteacher, 1 Staff, 1 Authority, 4 Co-opted Parent Governors and one Associate Governor

Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body. They are individuals who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

As a Governing Body, we are fully committed to the strategic functions of good school governance recognising that we are not responsible for the day-to-day management of the school.

The Governing Body in fulfilling its functions, delegates specific work to a number of committees. These include and cover,

Finance Premises & Staffing, Curriculum, and Performance & Pay progression. Other committees are setup, and meet as and when required.

As well as attending the Governing Body and committee meetings, governors have specific responsibilities and visit the school frequently during the year.

The Full Governing Body follows an action plan to ensure responsibilities are completed throughout the year. It considers key data, receives updates from the different committees, sets school budget, considers safeguarding provision, and Special Education Needs.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is at the forefront of everything we do. Keeping children safe in our school covers a broad set of responsibilities. This includes, but is not exhaustive: appropriate

policies and practices, ensuring attendance is managed, training, all staff and governors have safeguarding training and regular updates, a named governor safeguarding link, and ensuring the school fabric and estates are fit for purpose.

2025-2026

A list of our current governors, with any declaration of interests can be viewed on the school website. A summary of Governor activity can be found on the school website. This will be updated throughout the year. Our key strategic functions, as listed at the head of this document will be fundamental to our work.

Already, the Action Plan has been agreed and will direct our actions, along with any unexpected situations. Our School Self Evaluation Plan (SEP) and the School Improvement Plan, arising from the SEF, provides specific key areas to further develop our school. For this year these are formulated from comments within our Ofsted report.

Safeguarding will continue to be at the forefront of thoughts and actions.

Governors will again be monitoring the school activities, and report back to the Governing Board. The CoG and Headteacher will be meeting half termly.

Receipt of school data, budgets, headteacher reports, school improvement plan and self-evaluation reports, various surveys, along with monitoring and school visits will aid our governance and decisions.

Financially we are in a good position. Along with all schools, due to lower pupil intake and funding allocations, this year will be challenging. Our Finance, Premises & Staffing committee will be monitoring the situation carefully.

School policies will be updated as and when required

We will be working to commence the Nursery extension at the beginning of the 2026 Summer holiday time.

2026-2027

At the end of 2026 one of our governors Lisa Jenkins submitted her resignation, due to a change of employment. We are thankful for the advice, help and expertise Lisa gave to the Governing Body. This naturally gives a vacancy on the board for a Co-Opted Governor.

Over 2026 we have had updates on the new Ofsted inspections and expectations. We have already made steps to align our practices to show how the school meets these. We have put in place steps to cover equality, and awareness of the new categories. Throughout the coming year we will receive further updates and make progress towards readiness for our next inspection.

One major estate item has been the physical extension of our nursery. After being on our agenda for several years this will be ready for the new school year Sept 2026. It will provide much needed extra space.

We were thankful to receive funding for the extension, which leaves our finances in a good position to maintain our school needs. However once again, in keeping with the national picture, our pupil intake number is below our capacity. This does provide a financial challenge which we will manage.

This year our class teachers have some re-organisation and taking up new classes. This will provide those teachers with valuable experience, and in turn benefit the school and its pupils.

The Governing Board remains an experienced group of governors. We will be guided in our actions through:

- Core strategic functions noted above
- School Improvement Plan
- Action Plan
- Appropriate training

Final Comments

Once again, our Governors thank the staff, pupils, and parents for the efforts they make to ensure the school provides an outstanding education for all pupils whilst continuing to improve. The Governing Body are committed to working with the staff to develop the strategic plans for the years ahead in order to progress the school further.

Also thanks to the support we receive from Durham Governor Services in providing advice, expertise, and clerking functions to help the Governing Board run smoothly.