

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of
Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School
"Discovering a world of wonder, empowered by God's Spirit"
July 2025 – 2026**



In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Perfect Primary School Governing Body are:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- 2. Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Woodcocks' Well CE Primary School was re-constituted in 2014 following a conversion from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided. It is now made up of 7 Foundation Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 1 Staff Governor, 2 Parent Governor and 1 Co-opted Governor. The Head Teacher are Reverend Philip is Ex-officio Governors.

This year we currently have 2 vacancies for Foundation governors.

The Governing Body is key to the leadership of Woodcocks' Well Primary School. The Governing Body supports and challenges the Headteacher to continually improve the school and provide the best education for every child. This Annual Governance Statement is one way in which the Governing Body communicates its work and the impact we have had on school improvement to our stakeholders.

The Governing Body is made up of a group of committed volunteers who bring a range of skills and expertise and come from a variety of backgrounds. Governors are committed to improving the education of every child in our school and invest a huge amount of good will, hard work and time.

The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have several committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. This academic year marked a key transformation in how we operate. Moving from separate committee meetings to six Full Governing Body sessions annually has enabled richer discussions and more joined-up thinking. Each meeting alternates a deep dive into Resources or Learning & Wellbeing, while continuing to focus on strategic oversight, safeguarding, and curriculum.

	<p>We still continue to have committees that meet if required to specific aspects of school life which include staffing matters and admissions.</p> <p>See Appendix I for a list of Governors.</p>
Attendance Record of Governors	<p>Governors has a good attendance at meetings, and we have never cancelled an Full Governing Board meeting because it was not “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).</p>
Head Teacher and staff	<p>Mrs Beckett who joined us in January 2021, has led the school to new heights with her enthusiasm and willingness to include everyone within the community. Our link Church, St Lukes, was on the brink of closure and together with a team of people within the community and the school she has been a massive part for instigating it staying open. She is an active member of the church committee and has embellished the family services held there on a fortnightly basis. Being a church school, this has been a complete success for those new families who wish to send their children to us and she has gained excellent relationships with them.</p> <p>This academic year brought us new members and changes within our staffing team:</p> <p>Mrs Edwards in our Reception class (Diamond) – returned after her maternity in January 2025. Mrs Bate took the helm whilst Mrs Edwards was away from September to December 2024. Some topics this year were the worlds around us and traditional tales.</p> <p>Mrs Mahmood joined our team in September 2024 and has led our years 1 & 2 (Emerald) and has been doing some amazing work with them with topics such as Josaih Wedgewood and reading book by Dr Seuss.</p> <p>Miss Harley has led the Lower Key Stage 2 Class, years 3 and 4 (Amethyst). She has continued to be her usual bubbly self, encouraging those super stars to know they are super stars – topics included Crime and Punishment and Animals including humans.</p> <p>Miss Pate joined us in September 2024 and has led the Upper Key Stage 2 Class, years 5 & 6 (Ruby). Ensuring that the Year 6’s were ready for the May 2025 SATs tests.</p> <p>Mrs Phillips has been our Maths lead for all years, teaching maths every morning. This has greatly benefited the school, as children’s attainment in mathematics has improved markedly. She did this in conjunction to working each day outside the classroom in the afternoons in our amazing forest school.</p> <p>They all do an amazing job for the school and the support they show to Mrs Beckett is a compliment to her leadership skills.</p>
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body	<p>As outlined above, the Learning and Wellbeing Committee now forms part of three Full Governing Board meetings each year. We have continued to monitor progress against the School Development Plan, with particular attention to the number of pupils working at ‘Greater Depth’. Governors also reviewed key data on pupil achievement and progress to ensure the school remains on track to meet its ambitious targets for all learners.</p>

	<p>We are very pleased with the progress children have made across the school, though we recognise there is still much work to be done. Governors remain focused on the experience and outcomes of our vulnerable groups. This includes close scrutiny of how the Pupil Premium Grant is being used and the impact it is having on progress. The school analyses the attainment and progress of children eligible for Pupil Premium, as well as those with special educational needs, is analysed by the school and averages reported to governors.</p> <p>As above, the Resources Committee now forms part of three Full Governing Board meetings each year and looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, it makes decisions about how the school should use the budget.</p> <p>We have also considered the staffing plan during our Resources Committee and have a comprehensive plan of teacher-support in place.</p> <p>Mrs Lawless is our Health and Safety Governor and was present for annual Cheshire East Health and Safety Audit and she is pleased to inform you that along with her termly meeting with the site manager, Health & Safety is good within the school. The site manager works in conjunction with Mrs Beckett and Mrs Timmis in relation to the upkeep, care and safety of the school.</p> <p>Governors are also particularly concerned about safeguarding and we have a nominated governor for 'Safeguarding', a nominated governor for 'Child Protection', a nominated governor for 'Cared for Children' – nominated Governor for the above it is Maria Lawless. Mrs Lawless holds a Safeguarding 6 x annually with the SENCO Mrs Beckett. Our 'Pupil Premium Champion' Governor is Mrs J McKie.</p> <p>One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies. We keep a log of when policies are due to expire and these are included within our Governor Hub for ratifying – also agreed at the next relevant Full Governing Board.</p> <p>We've faced a number of challenges with our 170-year-old building, and this year has been particularly demanding. We've had to replace both boilers (serving the main school and the reception area) and tackle several copper pipe leaks, among other issues. Unfortunately, we've received no support from our diocese, and these repairs have significantly depleted our reserves. Inevitably, this has placed considerable strain on our school budget.</p> <p>Link Governors have been busy ensuring our link reports are up to date, science, safeguarding, PE, maths, English, Early Years and Humanities.</p> <p>Part 1 Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents - you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p>
Governor Training	<p>As well as Governors being fully up to date by attending training sessions either on line or off site. To name just a few:</p> <p>PREVENT Safeguarding Sustainability Cyber Security GDPR</p>

	<p>SEND Pupil Premium. Safer Recruiting.</p> <p>Governors also attended a Saturday morning development session with Cheshire East on the 18th January 2025 – this entailed governors, especially new governors to understand the core functions of Governance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How well do we know our school? 2. Are we maximising on our governor link visit? 3. Do we know whether our challenges are as effective as they should be? <p>All the above was to ensure the future development of our Governing Board.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overseeing the financial performance of the school. 2. Holding the head teacher to account. 3. Ensuring the voice of the stakeholders are heard. 4. Do we know the difference between strategic and operational. <p>It was a very informative morning with over 75% of governors attending.</p>
Future Plans for the Governors	<p>Governors continue to play an important part in the whole life of the school engaging in many different school activities such as residentials - Paris was again a great success with Mrs Lawless in attendance. Mrs Lawless also attended with staff and children Crucial Crew in Crewe – this proved to be very informative for the children.</p> <p>Governors continue to assist in challenging the head in improving our educational standards so that our children have the chance to realise their full potential. We believe the key to improving school performance is effective governance. By finding, nurturing and supporting, our governors are committed to help drive systematic change in how our school operates for the benefit of our children.</p> <p>The Governing body can confidently lead the way in our school with the understanding that they have a strong relationship with other stakeholders and a good knowledge base of what is expected of us to shine brightly as a Church of England school.</p>
SIAMs	<p>This year has been an exciting stage in the school life as far as SIAMS is concerned. It has not only seen the school getting to grips with the new SIAMS framework which seems to change termly! We are especially proud of our successful SIAMS inspection in September 2023. Achieving a 'Good' outcome under the new and more challenging framework was not only a testament to our school's Christian ethos, but also a reflection of our collective belief in our faith-driven education. Everyone involved in the school, work extremely hard to achieve this.</p> <p>Mrs Beckett and all staff with our RE Lead, Mrs Edwards, have begun preparations for our next inspection, which is expected to take place during the 2025/26 academic year.</p> <p>It has been a busy year with teachers, TAs, governors and our amazing head all working together to see our distinct Christian vision start to be embedded and celebrated in and through all of the Woodcock's family stakeholders.</p>

<p>Our OFSTED Inspection</p>	<p>As you will be aware, we had an Ofsted inspection on 10th and 11th July 2024 albeit this formed part of the Academic Year 24/25 it was so late in the year that it wasn't included in our last Governance Statement.</p> <p><u>As a governing body</u> we are extremely proud of the way our whole school responded to the inspection, ensuring that it ran smoothly, whilst demonstrating the improvement journey the school is currently on.</p> <p>There are so many positive comments to be taken from the report. You may have seen in the news recently that the overall effectiveness judgements are no longer being used by Ofsted. As our inspection was before September 2024, this is still stated on our report and we have been judged as 'requires improvement' even though we have <u>3 areas judged to be good</u>.</p> <p>Since the last inspection in 2018, the school has been through a period of instability and change. Governors are immensely proud of the staff and how they have managed those challenges. The lead inspector also recognised this and acknowledged the positive changes the school has already put in place to address this.</p> <p>The inspection team also recognised the curriculum, devised by Mrs Beckett since joining Woodcocks' Well, has clear intent and is 'engaging and ambitious for all pupils. The 'some' and 'few' subjects refer specifically to the foundation subjects during the deep dive. Mrs Beckett is enabling staff to develop expertise in these areas to ensure the foundation curriculum is implemented effectively to have the desired impact.</p> <p>Mrs Beckett has already employed 2 experienced members of staff to drive standards up, especially in Upper Key Stage 2. It is pleasing to see recognition from the inspectors that the improvements Mrs Beckett and the senior leadership team had already put in place has had a greater impact on EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2.</p> <p>We are very proud that the report judges' pupils' Personal Development to be 'good'; Behaviour and Attitudes to be 'good' and Early Years to be 'good'. All of our staff work hard to ensure that pupils' wider development is a priority and will continue to do so with your support.</p> <p>The very first paragraph of the report emphasises what is like to attend our school; 'pupils feel loved and valued; they are happy; all pupils appreciate the strong relationships that they form with staff; they are curious and enjoy learning; pupils embody the school's motto to 'discover a world of wonder'.</p> <p>As Governors we will of course, continually work towards securing the 'good' judgement for when Ofsted return in 2 years' time by further challenging and supporting the school. More importantly, we strive to provide an excellent educational experience for your children and our community by providing consistently high-quality teaching and learning experiences for all children in our school. During my conversations with the inspection team, the lead inspector recognised the dedication, commitment that Mrs Beckett has brought to the school to inspire the whole team.</p>
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<p>How You Can Contact the Governing Board</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Maria Lawless, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors listed on Appendix I. Appendix II lists the sub committees on which governors serve. Appendix III details the curriculum areas and other responsibilities / duties specific to each governor. Part 1 Minutes of governing body meetings are available on request by contacting the school office.</p>
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Appendix I

Total Numbers of Governors at Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School is: 12

Name of Governor	Governor Category	Date of appointment/ by who	Business Interest	Financial Interest	Governance Role in other schools	End Date of term of office
Maria Lawless	Foundation Diocese	11.03.2025 PCC	Spouse of school fund auditor	Spouse of school fund auditor		10.03.2029
Mark Banham	Foundation	27.11.2024 PCC				26.11.2028
Dr Kate Walchester	Foundation	05.07.2021 PCC	Spouse of Building Consultant	Spouse of Building Consultant		04.07.2028
Emma Ford	Foundation	01.07.2024 PCC				30.06.2028
Rector Philip Atkinson	Ex-Officio Foundation	PCC				Continuous
Johanne Mckie	Foundation	09.07.2025 PCC				09.07.2029
Steve Garratt	Local Authority	31.10.2024 FGB	A member of the PTFA but not a Trustee	A member of the PTFA but not a Trustee		30.10.2028
Rebecca Johnson	Parent	27.11.2024 Parent Election				26.11.2028
Lindsay Johnson	Parent	29.09.2021 Parent Election				28.09.2025
Janet Horton	Co-opted	FGB	Ex- member of staff			29.11.2026
Laura Phillips	Staff	01.09.2024 FGB				31.08.26
Stephanie Beckett	Ex-Officio Headteacher	01.01.2021 FGB				Continuous

Appendix II

Additional Responsibilities

Instrument of Government - Total Number 12 Governors

Foundation – 8

Maria Lawless
Dr Kate Walchester
Rector Philip Atkinson
Johanne McKie
Mark Banham
Emma Ford

Vacancy
Vacancy

Parent – 2

Lindsay Johnson
Rebecca Johnson

Local Authority – 1

Steven Garratt

Co-opted – 1

Janet Horton

Staff – 1

Laura Phillips

Headteacher – 1

Stephanie Beckett

Appendix III
Sub Committees – Summer 2025

Admissions Committee

Stephanie Beckett
Maria Lawless
Steven Garratt
Lindsay Johnson
Johanne McKie

Headteacher Performance Management Committee

Rector Philip Atkinson
Steven Garratt

Pupil Discipline Committee – Full Governing Board

Staff Disciplinary / Dismissal Committee
Resources Committee - FGB
Staff Appeals Committee
Learning and Wellbeing Committee - FGB