



Introduction

The mission of Southwold Primary and Early Years' Centre is to broaden horizons through lifelong learning. Its ethos and values are that every child matters. The school celebrates cultural diversity and recognises that every child is different and they are entitled to a meaningful, aspirational and broad balanced curriculum. Governors uphold this mission and the ethos and values of the school.

The Governing Board has three core strategic functions:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

What do Governors do?

- Governors are volunteers who support the Headteacher as critical friends. They ensure the school is well managed and is acting in the best interests of every child.
- Governors are accountable for the performance of the school, they need to know the school well, know the strengths and areas for development and monitor progress against the School Improvement Plan. They visit the school to engage with staff, children and parents and report back on their observations. Governors are linked to different functions of the school, such a subject area, SEND or pupil premium.

Membership of Governing Board 2024/25

- Chair to January 2025 Mrs K Truman (Co-opted Governor)
- Chair from January 2025 Ms Sally Longford (Local Authority Governor)
- Co Vice Chairs Miss W Greenwood (Co-opted Governor) & Mrs M Gabbittas (Co-opted Governor)
- Mrs Fatima Akhtar (Parent Governor)
- Ms Phoenix Li (Parent Governor) from January 2025
- Mr Rupert Knight (Co-opted Governor)
- Ms Veronica Bell (Co-opted Governor)
- Mrs Aline Taylor Deputy Head (Staff Governor)
- Mrs Y Salmeron, Head Teacher

At the end of the year there was a vacancy for one Co-opted Governor.

All Governors have an enhanced DBS check.

Governor Training and Induction

Governors participate in training to help them carry out their roles effectively. Training undertaken in 2024/2025 by Southwold Governors included, Safeguarding, Chairing your Governing body, Inclusive Attendance, Understanding data, New Governor Induction Training, Looked after Children, Prevent Duty, Exclusion, GDPR.



Governing Board Meetings

Meetings of the full Governing Board are held twice a term after school.

- Governors discuss the Headteacher's report which updates them on activities, issues and progress in the school. Many issues were discussed during the year including preparation and outcomes of the OFSTED inspection, behavioural issues, the introduction of OPAL play, staffing issues, test results and progress in Mathematics, the use of pupil premium and sports funding.
- Review the school budget.
- Receive reports and ensure compliance with important procedures such as Safeguarding, GDPR, attendance, behaviour.
- Review and approve updated policies and procedures.

A Pay Committee is held in the Autumn Term to approve staff pay awards (members Rupert Knight and Sally Longford).

Governor Visits 2024/2025

In 2024/2025 Governor visits included:

- Meetings with OFSTED Inspectors to answer questions and give perspectives on issues raised
- Taking part in staff recruitment
- Head Teacher appraisal
- Mathematics and computing assessment for learning
- Humanities (History) assessment for learning
- Humanities (History) new curriculum development and pupil voice feedback on their learning of the Great Fire of London Yrs 1 and 2
- Pupil voice – teaching and learning, safeguarding and behaviour, whole school review
- Play times and OPAL Play CPD
- Safeguarding and SEND
- Parental feedback on their experience of the school
- Health & Safety inspection
- Year 6 SATS procedural monitoring
- Single Central Record checks

Priorities for 2025-2026

The governing body will provide support and challenge in the implementation of school's priorities for the coming year:

- Develop staff practice through a supportive coaching and peer-learning model, enabling continuous growth and high-quality teaching for all pupils.
- Raise attainment and progress in mathematics across all year groups.
- Strengthen outcomes for pupils with lower starting points, ensuring early identification, tailored support, and high-impact interventions that enable them to make accelerated progress and close attainment gaps.



- Consolidate and further embed our Southwold Curriculum which continues to be creative, ambitious, meets the needs of our community, ensuring cultural capital and prepares pupils for their next stage of education.
- Promote high expectations of children's attendance, behaviour and conduct.
- Ensure children's safety and well-being is prioritised.
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