OSPRINGE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board 2025 – 2026
September 2026

In accordance with the Government's requirements for all governing boards, the three core strategic functions of a Primary School Governing Board are:

1. *Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction*
2. *Holding senior leaders to account for the educational performance and achievement of the school and all its pupils*
3. *Overseeing the financial management of the school and making sure that its money is effectively and appropriately spent*

Ospringe is a Church of England Primary School with a strong and caring Christian ethos which is encompassed by the three words, **Nurture - Grow – Succeed**. Our ethos is underpinned by our core Christian values of Compassion, Forgiveness, Equality, Honesty, Perseverance and Courage and our school vision statement "With God's guidance; sowing the seeds of success; nurturing and inspiring pupils and adults to flourish".

Individuals are valued and helped to achieve their personal best. Children are supported in becoming confident and independent young people, who thrive on challenge, and are motivated to learn. Whilst all schools will have their own distinctive 'feel', we believe that the 'special feel' at Ospringe CE Primary School comes from our nurturing, supportive and friendly environment.

The school is committed to our children's well-being, achieving high standards and providing the very best opportunities for all in its care. Staff, supported by governors, work hard to deliver a rich and challenging curriculum; to prepare children for future education; and to help them acquire the sills and enthusiasm needed to embrace the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Governing Board Organisation	The Governing Board of Ospringe CE Primary School was re-constituted in September 2025 and comprised: **<u>Governing Board – 15 in total (September 2025)</u>** • 1 Local Authority Governor • 1 Ex-officio • 2 Foundation Governor • 4 Parent Governors • 2 Staff Governors (includes the Headteacher) • 5 Co-opted Governors Vacancies in September 2025 • No Vacancies The Governing Board also had the following members with no voting rights: • 1 Governance Professional <u>Changes during the 2025-2026 Academic Year</u>

	The following changes occurred during the academic year: - Resignation of Anthony Manchester as Parent Governor (September 2025) - Resignation of Murray Wilkinson as Foundation Ex-Officio Governor (September 2025) - Appointment of Katie Traverse-Healy as Parent Governor (September 2025) - Appointment of Charles Gibson as Foundation Ex-Officio Governor (January 2026) At the end of the 2025 – 2026 academic year (July 2026) the Governing Board comprised: **<u>Governing Board – 15 in total (July 2026)</u>** • 1 Local Authority Governor • 1 Ex-officio • 2 Foundation Governors • 4 Parent Governors • 2 Staff Governors (includes the Headteacher) • 5 Co-opted Governors Vacancies in July 2026 • No vacancies The Governing Board also has the following members with no voting rights: • 1 Governance Professional <u>Governance Meetings</u> The Full Governing Board met 6 times during the year, which included an extraordinary meeting to ratify the appointment of a new Deputy Head Teacher. Additionally, the Governing Board operates four sub-committees and has specific governors with key areas of responsibility (oversight roles), which place emphasis on monitoring, evaluating, and supporting the implementation of the School Plan, containing the key development and improvement actions for the academic year. The four sub-committees are Pupil Progress (4 meetings), Teaching & Learning (4 meetings), Pastoral (5 meetings) and Finance & Estates (4 meetings); the latter deals with Staff Performance and Pay. There are additional committees which meet as and when required to consider staff and pupil discipline and to conduct the appraisal of the Headteacher. Governor meetings were held face to face through-out the academic year.
Governance Arrangements	Governors are recruited to match skills identified to provide effective governance of the school. Regular consideration is given to ensure sufficient coverage of the required skills. The skills and experience of the current members and their respective business / community interests are listed on the school website, along with a profile of each individual governor. The Governing Board fully supports training and development. Governors are expected to undertake relevant training and development, aligned both to their role and committee membership. In addition, there are mandated training requirements, e.g., safeguarding, which all governors complete.

	Monitoring and evaluation are core activities for governors to demonstrate progress of the relevant areas and key targets ("milestones") of the School Plan. Aligned to the monitoring plan, governors also monitor key aspects of the school; including curriculum, the core subjects of English, Maths and Science and individual governors have key areas of responsibility covering important aspects such as Safeguarding (incl. Child Protection / Looked After Children), Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND), Pupil Premium, Early Years Foundation, Health & Safety, Governor Training & Development, Collective Worship, Staff Welfare, all of which are underpinned by Ospringe CE Primary School's Christian Ethos. Additionally, the Finance & Estates Committee monitors both the school's income and expenditure against the school's budget plan together with matters relating to school buildings and premises. Minutes of the Full Governing Board meetings are public documents and can be obtained on request from the school office or via links on the school website. All committee meetings are also minuted. Governors also review and agree the Terms of References, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct for the procedural working of the Governing Board and its various sub-committees on an annual basis.
Attendance Record of Governors	Details of governor attendance at meetings are maintained and are available for review.

Work that Governors have done during the last academic year (2025 - 2026)	Governors continue to play a very active role in the life and development of our school. These activities include:
	
	• Championing the school's vision, values, and Christian ethos; continuously:
	  ○ reviewing achievements
	  ○ reviewing and challenging the school's vision and values
	  ○ assessing the impact of strategies and the quality of their outcomes
	  ○ identification of further areas for improvement / development
	• Maintained a focus on supporting the school and senior leadership team, including:
	  ○ maintenance of the school risk register
	  ○ assessing well-being of the school community
	• Continued review, challenge and focus on attainment against all areas of the School Development Plan, covering: Behaviour and Attitudes, Distinctive to Our School, Leadership and Management, Quality of Education and Personal Development.
	• Continued review, challenge and focus on the School's Ongoing SIAMS Self-Evaluation Template.
	• Reviewed and understood the new Ofsted Framework, which came into effect in November 2025, to ensure that governors are aware of changes to inspection and reporting processes, particularly in the context of Ospringe CE Primary School.
	• Reviewing, challenging, and focusing on the progress and attainment of all our pupils, but especially those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, to ensure that measures are in place which are maximising their opportunities to learn and make progress, thereby supporting the achievement of the best possible outcomes – academic and developmental.
	• Completed the annual skills audit – to facilitate identification of governor training and development needs. Governors have continued to update their knowledge, understanding and competence in line with both best practice and statutory

	requirements (e.g., Keeping Children Safe in Education and anti-radicalisation). Where there is a statutory requirement for Governors to complete training this has been undertaken by all Governors. • Fostering collaboration with Governors from the wider Faversham Collaboration of Schools, including joint governor training. • Curriculum updates to enable Governors to understand the intent, implementation, impact of the current curriculum, and its ongoing development.
Assessment of Impact	The impact of the work undertaken by the Governing Board is that: - • Governors maintain a strong understanding of the strategic role that they play in leading and managing the school. • The minutes of all meetings (Governing Board and its respective sub-committees) fully reflect the level of challenge that Governors provide in questioning the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team about actions that are being taken by the school to: o embed the Vision, Values and Christian ethos of the school in the wider school community. o at the end of each Governing Board and Committee meeting governors reflect on the meeting and consider the impact the Governing Board has had on improving the children and wider community the school supports. o raise standards. o keeping children safe. o ensuring pupils' progress. o ensuring all staff (Senior Leaders, teachers, and support staff) feel valued and supported by governors. o ensure the school's budget is used to achieve the best possible outcomes for pupils. o comply with statutory duties. o support the evolution of the creative curriculum to increase to opportunities for all children. • Strategic development for partnership and collaborative working.
Links with the Church	The school has integral links with St Peter & St. Paul Church in Ospringe. The Foundation and Ex-Officio governors work very closely with the school (and other governors) on all aspects of Christian Ethos, Worship and Spiritual Development throughout the school. They play an important part too in enabling governors to monitor these essential areas as a core part of their evaluation and support roles.
Future Plans for Governors	• Continued engagement by all governors aligned to the school vision, values, and Christian ethos. • Continue to support the school leadership in safeguarding the well-being of the school community, including a focus on staff welfare. • Continue to monitor the outcomes for all children, including disadvantaged pupils. • Continue to monitor the impact of Pupil Premium as well as any additional funding received by the school. • Continue to monitor the development and impact of teaching and learning throughout the school, including further curriculum deep dives. • Continue to monitor both the ongoing development and impact of Ospringe CE Primary School's distinctive Christian ethos, as it relates to the behaviour and

	attitude of the whole school community, with continued focus on attendance, pupil voice and behaviour for learning. • Continuing to raise the profile of governors and their work with pupils, parents, and the wider community. • Continuing to help the school's Senior Leaders to make strategic decisions, including working with local schools and other organisations to review the options for effective future collaboration. • A continued focus on the training and development for all members of the Governing Board.
Contacting the Governing Board	Suggestions, feedback, ideas, and support is always welcomed from all our stakeholders. Please contact the Chair of Governors – Mr Justin Lovell via the school office or website.