

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Board of Governors – September 2024 to August 2025

MEMBERS	POSITION	GOVERNOR TYPE	TERM END
Darren Cohen		Co-opted	16/05/2029
Juliette Curtis		Staff	08/03/2027
Reverend Sue Goldsmith		Co-opted	Stepped down 13/2/2025
Mark Jepson	DEPUTY HEADTEACHER	Co-opted	10/12/2028
Andrew Little		Co-opted	10/01/2026
Richard Kurzyca	CHAIR OF GOVERNORS Oct 2022 – AUG 2025	Co-opted	28/11/2026
Olalekan Ogundana		Local Authority	06/05/2028
Gemma Salmon		Co-opted	07/10/2028
Ajay Sharma		Co-opted	07/10/2028
Matthew Williams		Co-opted	05/02/2028
Vicki Wright	PARENT GOVERNOR		30/09/2028
Matt O’Grady	HEADTEACHER	Staff	Ex-officio

There is one vacancy for a Co-opted governor.

The Board of Governors maintains a diverse set of skills and backgrounds, essential for an effective Board.

Clerk to the Governors

This service is provided by Juniper Education, Head Office, Boundary House, 4 County Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0RE. Tel: 0345 200 8600.

Committees – September 2024 to August 2025

Governors meet twice each term; one meeting concentrates on the curriculum and pupils, the other meeting concentrates on the School’s finances and its strategic development. In addition to these meetings, there are four committees:

Headteacher’s Appraisal Committee: Darren Cohen, Richard Kurzyca, Gemma Salmon and Keith Pullen (external adviser).

Teachers’ Pay Committee: Darren Cohen, Andrew Little, Matthew Williams and Vicki Wright.

Staff Discipline Appeals Committee, and Pupils Discipline Committee. These committees will comprise three governors who do not have any connection with the matter being discussed and have no prior knowledge of it.

Attendance – September 2024 to August 2025

MEMBERS	Number of Board meetings attended this year
Darren Cohen	3 of 6 (50%)
Juliette Curtis	6 of 6 (100%)
Reverend Sue Goldsmith	2 of 3 (66%)
Andrew Little	5 of 6 (83%)
Mark Jepson	6 of 6 (100%)
Richard Kurzyca	6 of 6 (100%)
Olalekan Ogundana	4 of 6 (66%)
Gemma Salmon	6 of 6 (100%)
Ajay Sharma	5 of 6 (83%)
Matthew Williams	3 of 6 (50%)
Vicki Wright	4 of 6 (66%)
Matt O’Grady	6 of 6 (100%)

Training Undertaken by Governors

Governors have undertaken training on a wide variety of topics including:

- Staff wellbeing webinars.
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) basics for schools.
- School finances.
- The monitoring role of governors.
- Safeguarding.
- Overview of governance.
- Cyber security.
- Governor induction training (essential for new governors to help them understand the diverse requirements of being a governor).

Chair’s Statement / Statement from Board

We have welcomed Vicki Wright as Parent Governor, and Gemma Salmon and Reverend Sue Goldsmith as Co-opted Governors. They joined the Governing Board in October 2024. Unfortunately, Reverend Sue Goldsmith resigned in February 2025 due to pressure from other commitments; although Sue was a Governor for only a few months, we did appreciate the work she undertook for the School.

Effective 31 August 2025, Richard Kurzyca resigned from his role as Chair of Governors and will now act as Vice-Chair. Richard has been Chair of Governors for seven years, and the move to Vice-Chair reflects succession planning. Commencing with the next academic year, Ajay Sharma has been elected by the Governing Body as the new Chair of Governors.

We strive to continue to support the work of the School:

- Ensuring pupils still enjoy school, feel valued and part of the school community.
- Clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

- Ensuring pupil attainment is monitored and maximised.
- Oversight and approval of the School's budget.
- To ensure all staff are supported as needed.
- To approve policies and procedures.

We continue to review policies and procedures to ensure that these are fit for purpose and meet not only our legal responsibilities, but also our vision and aims for the School and our pupils. The children and staff remain at the forefront of our decisions as we endeavour to provide the best educational environment for them.

We continue to closely monitor the School budget to ensure we can cope with rising costs. This is a constant challenge, but we strive to ensure that staffing levels and resources do not suffer as a result. This means that the children's learning and development will continue to be of the highest standard.

Other Documents

The register of business and pecuniary interests held by the governors is available from the governors' section on the School's website.