The Governance Statement 2025-2026

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Stoke Holy Cross Primary School September 2026	
The core responsibilities of Stoke Holy Cross Governing Board are identified as follows: 1. Academic standards 2. Quality of Curriculum and Teaching and Learning 3. Pupil development and behaviour 4. Attendance 5. Community Engagement	
Governance arrangements	The governing board (FGB) currently has 9 members comprising of Head of School, 1 staff governor, 2 parent governors, 1 LA governor, and 4 co-opted governors. During the course of the year one associate governor resigned, the governors agreed to reduce the number of governors to 10 but there is 1 vacancy. All business and statutory duties were carried out through the full FGB without delegation to sub–committees. The FGB met 6 times during the year and had three presentation evenings on subjects reflecting the priorities set out in the SIDP. In addition to financial, health and safety and personnel matters focused on teaching and learning including curriculum offer, academic progress, attendance and behaviour for all pupil groups and expenditure and impact of the Pupil Premium and PE and Sports funding and staff wellbeing. Minutes of meetings include clear actions and evidence of challenge and support from governors. The FGB is serviced by a professional clerk. During the course of the year the FGB was audited and found to be exemplary. See our website for a list of Governors.
Attendance record of governors	Governors attendance at meetings is recorded. All meetings planned in 2025/26 were held and no meetings were postponed due to not being "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). See website for details of individual governors' annual attendance at FGB meetings. Meetings were held either in person or on Teams. Dates for all meetings and SIDP objectives presentations were published on the work planner at the beginning of the school year as part of the strategic

	overview of monitoring and accountability and were reviewed throughout the year. These presentations formed an integral part of Governor monitoring throughout the year. In addition, Governors were expected to meet during the year with their nominated responsibility lead member of staff to monitor progress. Governors attended INSET days.
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body	The FGB scrutinised matters pertaining to finance, personnel, premises and health and safety as well as matters relating to improving academic standards, safeguarding and Pupil Premium. School improvement this year has been informed by the Self Evaluation Form (SEF) and School Improvement and Development Plan (SIDP). Governors have a clear and thorough knowledge of all school improvement work through Headteacher reports to governors and data presentations. Reports to meetings lead to detailed questioning and challenge from governors. This helps to ensure that Governors are monitoring key school improvement milestones and associated timelines and holding school leaders to account for ensuring all OFSTED recommendations are addressed. Governors alongside the Headteacher, held Parent Forums. Governors reviewed the admissions targets for 2026 in view of the projected shortfall in the child population in Norfolk. Policy reviews this year: • Grievance model policy and procedure • Health and Safety organization and responsibilities • Governors Code of Conduct • Records and Data Management • Discrimination, bullying and harassment • CCTV • Employee Privacy • General Privacy • Safeguarding and Child Protection • Pay • Probation • School attendance • Disciplinary model procedure • Appraisal for Teachers • Online Safety • Concerns and complaints • Finance • Recruitment and selection • Whistleblowing • Educational visits • Behaviour for learning

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	• Leave and time off • Staff Code of Conduct • SEND • Uniform • Parent/carer/visitor behaviour policy Governors were closely involved in the annual Safeguarding review, including SCR audit, school self -review and compliance checklist and review of policy. Governors used their professional skills to see the completion of the new Library. Governors kept a close eye on the finances by attending Budget Review meetings with the Norfolk County Council Financial Officer. They also received and discussed the results of Staff Wellbeing and Pupil surveys. Governors maintained the amount of in-school monitoring from that of the previous year. Minutes of all Governors meetings include a log of actions and any challenge raised by governors. At the end of every meeting governors are asked what have we done today to improve the education of children at Stoke Holy Cross Primary School to ensure focus remains on the FGB delegated role and the vision of the school.
Future plans for the governors	• To support and hold the school accountable for the implementation of the Inspectors feedback from the 2024 Inspection. • To provide smooth succession planning to ensure continued effectiveness of FGB, governors will appoint a co-chair to address the skills evaluation they completed in Summer 2024 • To continue to provide support and challenge for the Headteacher and senior/subject leaders to continue school improvement • Governors will continue to look for opportunities to be available to hear stakeholder voices, particularly the pupil voice.
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/ stakeholders – please contact the Chair of Governors, via the School office. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.