



GOVERNORS' CHARTER

Approved date: September 2025

Review date: September 2026

The Governing Body of Southway Junior School is committed to working in partnership with the Headteacher and staff to provide the best possible education for our children. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its children and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

The Governing Body will:

- Respect the professional expertise of the Headteacher and staff;
- Recognise that its role is strategic and responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school rests with the Headteacher;
- Seek to provide challenge and support to the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team;
- Work together with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school;
- Hold the school leadership to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff;
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent;
- Give sufficient notice of meetings, distribute paperwork to all governors in good time (at least a week before the meeting) and avoid tabling paperwork at meetings wherever possible;
- Ensure that meetings are chaired effectively, so that the Chair:
 - Keeps to the agenda;
 - Paces the meeting so that time is given to each matter in proportion to its importance;
 - Draws on all members for contribution;
 - Keeps discussion to the point;
 - Ensures that accurate draft minutes are produced promptly following meetings and agreed at the following meeting;
 - Encourages all governors to contribute equally;
- Support the training and development needs of all governors;
- Ensure that its decision-making processes are transparent.
- Support leadership development and succession planning within the school.

Individual governors will:

- Act with honesty, integrity and objectivity, taking decisions that are in the best interests of the school and not those of self, individuals or groups;
- Respect confidentiality and support corporate decisions even if they go against personal opinions;
- Regularly attend meetings, including full governing body meetings and relevant committee/working party meetings, and play an active part;
- If this is impossible, send apologies to the Clerk or to the Chair of the meeting;

- Be prepared to contribute personal skills through involving themselves in the work of appropriate committees and/or working parties;

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Headteacher: Mrs V Smith

- Prepare for meetings so that they are well informed, having as a minimum read all the papers sent out with the agenda;
- Respect the points of view of other governors even where these differ from their own;
- Raise issues with the Headteacher between meetings in a positive and constructive way;
- Respect the guidelines laid down for governor visits to school;
- Demonstrate their commitment by getting to know the school and becoming involved in school life and activities;
- Take a proactive approach to their own training and development, and respond positively to feedback.

The Headteacher or relevant Senior Leadership Team member will:

- Respect governors as volunteers who bring additional skills, experiences and perspectives, and value their contribution;
- Work openly with the governing body and provide clear, concise and relevant information on which the governing body can base decisions;
- Promptly provide any reasonable information requested by the governing body;
- Ensure appropriate paperwork is available to governors with meeting agendas;
- Be approachable and accept governors' role of 'critical friend';
- Enable all governors to become involved in the life of the school;
- Contribute to the induction, training and development of governors.

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