



Donnington Wood Infants' School & Nursery

Governors' Annual Report 2023-24

'Learning, Caring, Preparing'

The Governing Board of Donnington Wood Infant School & Nursery is an effective team of people with a complimentary range of skills and experience that they bring to our school community. The Governing Board carry out a wide range of responsibilities for the benefit of all children, parents/carers, staff, and the wider school community.

The core functions of governors are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of all its pupils, and the effective performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

At the most recent inspection in June 2023 the school was graded 'Good' in all areas. The full report is available on [the Ofsted link](#). Governors reviewed the Ofsted report, ensuring all plans were in place to address actions and continue to build on achievements reported by Ofsted. Governors' roles & activities were validated by the school's Improvement Advisor in July 2024.

Governors were pleased to be informed that Donnington Wood Infant School & Nursery has been recognised as an exemplar of Early Help best practice. The school has also been accepted as part of T&W's Neurodiversity Project

All governors were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Miss Lucas, a longstanding and respected member of staff.

Membership of the Governing Board

Type of Governor	Name	Term of Office ends
Co-opted	Mrs Jane Brothwood	19.04.2025
Co-opted	Mrs Mandy Parker	16.12.2026
Head teacher	Mrs Caroline Boddy	Ex Officio
Local Authority	Mrs Michelle Parker	10.11.2026
Parent	Ms Natasha Hatton	09.11.2024
Staff	Mrs Amanda Hannington	31.08.2027
Associate Governor	Mrs Sarah Pitt	09.01.2024
School Clerk	Mrs Diane Bentley	
LA Clerks	Ms Esther McDermott Ms Sarah Morris	Meetings 23/11/23 & 21/03/24 Meeting (23/11/23 & 21/03/24)

Governor Meetings

Members of the Governing Board formally meet termly both, in person, and in virtual meetings, with the schools' Senior Leadership Team and the Teaching & Learning Committee and, in addition, two Resources Committee meetings. All details of the full governor meetings and governor attendance are shown on the school website. The minutes of all meetings were approved, and copies kept on file. Governors also visit school regularly, engaging with staff, pupils, and their families/carers.

The Chair of Governors regularly meets or speaks with the Headteacher, usually on a weekly basis, during term time. Topics reviewed included safeguarding, attendance, staffing and staff wellbeing and any issues that may have arisen and which may impact the school, as well as to provide support and challenge.

Setting the Strategic Vision of the School

The school's values 'learning, caring, preparing' are at the heart of all the children's learning. This has been clearly evidenced through governors' visits to the school.

Governors congratulated Mrs Varley and Mrs Pitt on their respective moves/promotion. Governors approved changes to the Senior Leadership Team.

Governors had the opportunity to question and challenge the headteacher about the use of pupil premium, ensuring funds are used effectively to support all pupils. All governors reviewed the School Development Plan 2023-24 and agreed the priorities in discussion to ensure the best outcomes for all children. Governors also reviewed feedback from parents (parent questionnaire July 2023).

Governors were informed of proposed changes, which were agreed with Donnington Wood Junior School to ensure commonality of both schools' start times, to meet Government recommendations for the length of the school week to be 32 ½ hours from September 2024.

The staff wellbeing audit was reviewed and updated in June 2024. A governor met with a group of staff to validate the audit and to identify further opportunities for improvement.

Monitoring & Reporting

Governors received regular, detailed reports and updates on safeguarding and attendance at all meetings. A section 175/157 safeguarding audit was completed by T&W.

Additionally, key topics discussed by governors, during the year included:

- Phonics
- Leadership and Management
- EYFS and Key Stage 1 reading
- Behaviour & wellbeing

Finance and Resources

The school budget was monitored by the Governing Board throughout the year and expenditure against budget was assessed to ensure that the school remains in a stable financial position. This ensures that optimum value is being delivered to achieve the best outcomes for all pupils.

All governors took part in a review of the 2023/24 budget, and the projected budget for 2024/25 was approved, with governors asking probing questions. Governors also reviewed and approved the Schools Financial Value Statement.

All governors were fully apprised of the presence of Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete and the remedial actions completed. Proposals to address the issue were shared with governors, and challenges highlighted. Governors received assurance of the low risk to health and safety of staff and children.

Statutory Duties

Throughout the academic year, governors have ensured all statutory requirements and duties have been met. There is a rolling programme of a review of policies throughout the school year with discussion and agreement of any changes made by the full Governing Board.

The policies reviewed during the year include: -

- Child Protection & Safeguarding
- Nursery admissions
- Special Educational Needs
- Medical needs