

Donnington Wood Infants' School & Nursery

Governors' Annual Report 2024-25

'Learning, Caring, Preparing'

The Governing Board of Donnington Wood Infant School & Nursery is a team of people who have a 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 the 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 the organisation and its pupils, and the 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. This year school has also taken part in the T&W's Neurodiversity Project, providing excellent guidance and training for staff to help our neurodiverse children and to ensure our curriculum and delivery fully supports their needs.

Membership of the Governing Board

| Type of Governor | Name | Term of Office ends |
|------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Co-opted | Mrs Jane Brothwood | 19.04.2025 (Resigned April 2025) |
| Co-opted | Mrs Mandy Parker | 16.12.2026 |
| Head teacher | Mrs Caroline Boddy | Ex Officio |
| Local Authority | Mrs Michelle Parker | 10.11.2026 |
| Local Authority | Mr John Bowden | 20.11.2028 |
| Parent | Vacancy | |
| Staff | Mrs Amanda Hannington | 31.08.2027 |
| School Clerk | Mrs Diane Bentley | |
| LA Clerks | Ms Esther McDermott (27/3/25 & 19/06/25) Ms Alice Smith (21/11/24) | |

Governor Meetings

Members of the Governing Board formally meet, in person, once each term. Additionally, the Governing Board holds virtual or in person meetings, termly, with the schools' Senior Leadership Team and as members of the Teaching & Learning Committee and 2 Resources Committee meetings.

Details of full Governor meetings and Governor attendance is 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.

In addition, the Chair of Governors met or spoke with the Headteacher on a regular basis during term time, normally weekly. Topics reviewed included safeguarding, attendance, staffing and staff wellbeing and discuss any issues that may have arisen or review changes which may impact the school, and to provide support and challenge.

Setting the Strategic Vision of the School

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

Governors monitored the effectiveness of changes to the Senior Leadership Team and the impact of these. Governors congratulated Mrs Jones on her new appointment and thanked her for her work at DWIN. Governors also thanked Mrs Brothwood for her excellent term of service as Chair of Governors and for the commitment and diligence with which she discharged that role.

Governors had the opportunity to question and challenge the headteacher about the use of pupil premium, ensuring funds are used to support all pupils. Governors also discussed with SLT how Sports premium funding was used to enhance the students experience at school.

All governors reviewed the School Development Plan 2024-25 and agreed priorities. All governors validated proposals through questions and observations to ensure the best outcomes for all children. Governors also reviewed feedback from parents (parent questionnaire July 2024). July 2025 questionnaire will be reviewed in Autumn 2025.

Revised changes to start times for the school day which had been agreed with Donnington Wood Junior School in order to meet the Government recommendation of 32 ½ hours for the length of the school week came into effect in September 2025 and this has worked smoothly. Governors have been kept up to date and had opportunities to discuss at meeting the plans for wraparound care which are planned to be in place for September 2025.

The strategic staff wellbeing audit was reviewed and updated in July 2025. A governor met with groups of staff to validate the audit and to identify further opportunities for improvement. This is planned to be further consolidated in 2025 – 26 with termly staff/governor drop in sessions and a survey of all staff in the Autumn term.

Monitoring & Reporting

Governors received reports and updates on safeguarding and attendance at all meetings. A section 175/157 safeguarding audit was completed by T&W and validated during a governor monitoring visit.

Chair of Governors has a termly on site visit to sample documentation and confirm assurances of the schools robust approach to safeguarding and online safety. Governor visits also look at health and safety, student behaviour, moderation of grades and curriculum planning and confirm that expectations are being met. Governors have also been delighted to have the opportunity to observe and share in key events such as school visits, sports days and attendance awards.

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

- Phonics
- Leadership and Management
- EYFS and Key Stage 1 reading
- Behaviour & wellbeing
- Planning for RAAC building works

Finance and Resources

The school budget is monitored by the Governing Body throughout the year and expenditure against budget is 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 pupils.

All governors took part in a review of the 2024/25 budget, and the projected budget for 2025/26 was approved, with Governors asking probing questions. Governors also reviewed the Schools Financial Value Statement, using enquiry to validate draft responses.

All governors were fully appraised 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. Governors have been kept up to date with the building once and planning for the move into temporary accommodation for September 2025.

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 by the full Governing Board.

The policies reviewed during the year include: -

- Child Protection & Safeguarding
- Nursery admissions
- Special Educational Needs
- Medical needs
- Capability, Appraisal and Maternity & Family leave policies
- Health and safety

Governors have also discussed and reviewed the School Risk assessment and monitored actions taken in relation to this and to ensure all risks are minimised as far as practicable.