

Donnington Wood Infants' School & Nursery

Governors' Annual Report 2025-26

'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 2025.

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 OTTO Handwriting Project, the full impact of which is currently being assessed but staff have clearly seen real improvements and are looking at ways we can share strategies to benefit all our children. We have also continued to put into action the learnings from our involvement in the T&W's Neurodiversity Project last year, which provided excellent guidance and training for staff to help our Neuro diverse 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 Mandy Parker	16.12.2030
Co-opted	Mr John Bowden	20.11.2028
Co-opted	Dr Beth Sumner	09.07.2030
Local Authority	Mrs Michelle Parker	10.11.2030
Head teacher	Mrs Caroline Boddy	Ex Officio
Parent	Vacancy	
Staff	Mrs Amanda Hannington	31.08.2027
Parent	Vacancy	

School Clerk	Mrs Debbie Clarke	
LA Clerk	Ms Esther McDermott	

Governor Meetings

Members of the Governing Board formally meet, in person, at least once each term. Additionally, the Governing Board holds virtual or in person meetings, termly, with the schools' Senior Leadership Team. There is also at least one Teaching and Learning Committee meeting and generally two in person meetings of the Resources Committee.

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 was an opportunity to discuss any issues that may have arisen or review changes which may impact the school. These meetings are also intended to provide strategic support and challenge, and include in person visits to monitor and audit processes and provide reassurance that policies are being followed rigorously.

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.

Visits have provided opportunities to talk to children and see examples of excellent behaviour, and to attend assemblies to see how achievements and attendance improvements are celebrated and shared. Governors have also met with staff to discuss well-being issues, discussing positive impacts and how areas of concern can be addressed.

As this has been a challenging year due to the building works, Governors have been closely monitoring the progress of these, and how the impact of these changes have been managed in terms of staff and student wellbeing and the effective management of the learning environment. Both staff and children have been remarkably resilient, and the disruption has been managed very effectively to minimise the impact to all aspects of school life. Governors were on site for some of the 'moving back in' process at the start of the summer term and were very impressed with the energy, teamwork and commitment shown by staff and senior leadership team to make sure everything was ready to welcome our children back into the main school building.

Governors have had a particular focus on attendance this year. It is a key part of local and National government strategy and expectations are rightly high in this area. It is a key indicator of school success and the engagement of children, confirming their opportunities to meet and even exceed learning expectations, and also strongly links to safeguarding and children's wellbeing. Governors have discussed this area in all meetings, receiving regular reports and updates from headteacher and weekly newsletters, rigorously questioning and seeking reassurances about strategies and outcomes of these. Governors are reassured that all staff are very mindful of the importance of attendance, and that SLT strongly lead a whole school strategy to engage parents in this. New initiatives are already having an impact on raising attendance across all levels, and governors will continue to support and challenge school leaders to build on these improvements.

All governors reviewed the School Development Plan 2025-26 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 2025). July 2026 questionnaire will be reviewed in Autumn 2026.

The changes to the school day introduced in September 2025 have been successful and the school is making good progress in meeting the Government requirements for wraparound care (using Embrace as the provider). Although there has been limited take up of this provision Governors are encouraging the support for this resource as it is very important for some parents. Governors have been kept up to date with plans for ensuring breakfast provision for all children from September, again in line with local and National strategies, and have had opportunities to discuss these in meetings.

Monitoring & Reporting

Governors received reports and updates on safeguarding and attendance at all meetings. The T&W Section 175/157 safeguarding audit was completed by school leaders and then 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. Updates are shared with Governors in a timely manner and Chair of Governor attends Telford and Wrekin termly Head and Chair Briefings and Safeguarding Briefings.

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

- Phonics
- Leadership and Management
- EYFS and Key Stage 1 reading
- Behaviour & wellbeing
- Updates on progress with RAAC building works

Finance and Resources

The school budget is monitored by the Governing Board 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 2025/26 budget, and the projected budget for 2026/27 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 progress on plans to remove the Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete and regularly updated as the remedial actions were completed. Challenges were shared with governors, and also the strategies in place to deal with these. Governors received assurance of the low risk to health and safety.

Governors had the opportunity to question and challenge the headteacher about the use of pupil premium, ensuring funds are used to support all pupils. This included how this spending would 'close the gap' in meeting learning objectives and achievement targets for vulnerable children. Governors also discussed with SLT how Sports premium funding was used to enhance the students experience at school. Governors were involved in discussions relating to resourcing and teaching and learning strategies to support our most vulnerable learners, and took a close interest in the implementation and impact of these strategies and how the effectiveness of this was monitored.

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 and accessibility plan
- Capability, appraisal and Maternity and Family leave policies
- Health and safety
- Educational Health and Wellbeing
- Complaints Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Cyber Security, Data Protection and AI Policies.

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.