Earls Colne Primary School & Nursery
Annual Governance Statement
Autumn 2026

Role of Governors

Governors are volunteers who work together with the Headteacher, staff and local authority to ensure that the children at the School receive the best education in a supportive and safe setting. To achieve this Governors have three core strategic functions:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction by:**

- setting the vision, values, and objectives for the school
- agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- meeting statutory duties

2. **Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils by:**

- appointing the Headteacher
- monitoring progress towards targets
- performance managing the Headteacher
- engaging with stakeholders (including parents & pupils)
- contributing to school self-evaluation

3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is spent well by:**

- setting the budget
- monitoring spending against the budget
- ensuring value for money is obtained
- ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

The Board of Governors September 2026 – August 2027

Name	Type of Governor	Current Term of Office appointed	Current Term of Office expires
Mr George Posner	Co-opted	3 years	31st August 2027
Mrs Fiona Beck	Co-opted	3 years	1st January 2027
Mr Matthew Brown	Co-opted	3 years	9th December 2026
Miss Claire Smith (Chair of Governors)	Co-opted	3 years (1 year as Chair)	6th July 2029
Mr Dan Salt (Vice Chair of Govs)	Co-opted	3 years (1 year as Vice Chair)	22nd January 2028
Mr Mike Watson	Co-opted	3 years	30th November 2027
Mr Richard Farnes	Authority	3 years	21st January 2029
Revd Mark Payne	Partnership	3 years	2nd May 2028
Mrs Nikki Golinska	Parent	4 years	3rd November 2028
Mr Liam Condron	Parent	4 years	21st April 2029
Mr Alex Smith	Parent	4 years	26th November 2028
Mr Ryan Smith	Co-opted	3 years	26th November 2028

The Board of Governors maintain a skills matrix which demonstrates the diverse skills held by the Board. This document informs any appointments to ensure the Board of Governors maintain the skills required to be effective. Current Governor details can be found within the Governor Profile.

Clerk To Governors
Janet Johnson – janet.johnson@junipereducation.org

Committees Sept 2026 – Sept 2027
Remits for the Committees are available on the school website and upon request. Some committees or named Governors receive specific training to be able to carry out their functions effectively.

Admissions Committee
Mr Dan Salt (Chair)
Mrs Jakki Sibley (Headteacher)
Mr Matthew Brown
Revd Mark Payne
Mr George Posner
Mr Mike Watson
Mrs Christine Tucker (School Business Manager)
Mrs Natalie Smith (Administrator)

Pay Committee (At least 3 named Governors excluding employees of the school)	**Headteachers Appraisal Committee** (At least 2 of the Pay Committee members)	**Pay Appeals Committee** (At least 3 named Governors none of whom are on the Pay Committee or are employees at the school)
Mrs Fiona Beck (Chair)	Mrs Fiona Beck (Chair)	Mr Dan Salt (Chair)
Miss Claire Smith	Miss Claire Smith	Mr Richard Farnes
Mr Mike Watson	Mr Mike Watson	Mr George Posner
Mr Matthew Brown	Mr Matthew Brown	Mrs Nikki Goslinska

Appeals Committee	**Pupil Discipline Committee**
3 Governors excluding employees of the school & if relating to Staff Discipline excluding the 3 Governors who formed that Committee	3 Governors excluding employees of the school

Complaints Review Panel (3 governors excluding employees of the school from the following pool:)	
Mr Matthew Brown	Revd Mark Payne
Mr Richard Farnes	Mr Dan Salt
Mr Mike Watson	Mr George Posner
Mrs Fiona Beck	

Governors attend school events such as: performances, sporting events or to see the children learning in school. Each Governor is assigned to a subject area and follows the children's

progress. This approach allows Governors to get to know the children's journey throughout the school.

Named Governors linked to subject areas	**2026 / 2027**
Mr George Posner	Geography & Forest School
Mrs Fiona Beck	MFL
Mr Matthew Brown	History
Miss Claire Smith (Chair of Governors)	English & PE
Mr Dan Salt (Vice Chair of Govs)	Computing / Cyberbullying
Mr Mike Watson	Maths
Mr Richard Farnes	Music
Revd Mark Payne	PHSE & RE
Mr Alex Smith	Art
Mr Liam Condron	DT & Science
Mrs Nicki Golinska	Early Years & Phonics
Mr Ryan Smith	Maths

Attendance Sept 2025 – Sept 2026

Governor	**Number of body meetings attended this year (6 per year)**	**Number of committee meetings attended this year 1 x Admissions 1 x Pay Committees**
Mr George Posner	4	1
Mrs Fiona Beck	5	1
Mr Matthew Brown	5	
Miss Claire Smith (Chair of Governors)	5	1
Mr Dan Salt (Vice Chair of Govs)	4	1
Mr Mike Watson	6	1
Mr Richard Farnes	4	
Revd Mark Payne	4	1
Mrs Nicky Robinson	4	
Mr Liam Condron	6	
Mr Alex Smith	5	
Mr Ryan Smith	4	
Mrs Nicki Golinska	5	

Training Undertaken by Governors Sept 2025 – Sept 2026

During the academic year Governors have attended training sessions run by The NEXUS Consortium and e-learning modules. When considering the skills and training Governors require, particular attention is given to three core strategic functions of the Board of Governors:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The following training has been undertaken:

2025 / 2026:-

- Keeping Children Safe In Education 2026
- Keeping Children Safe in Education online Training
- Safeguarding Training

Chairs Statement / Statement from the Board

As Chair of the Board, I am pleased to share my annual report with you. Another year has passed where our school community has worked together to implement our aims and values to enable our children to flourish. Our school community continued to work together to create a caring environment so that the children can develop to their full potential, whilst making sure that the School Improvement Plan is followed so that the school has direction.

The children and staff remain at the forefront of our decisions as we strive to provide the best educational and emotionally safe environment for them.

The Board was able to fulfill its strategic role of monitoring and evaluating policies and procedures and all committees fulfilled their responsibilities.

We continue to oversee the setting of goals and targets in the school development plan to ensure financial resources are in place to meet targets – this is becoming more and more challenging.

Meetings

The Full Board of Governors meets termly. The Pay Committee meets 6 monthly. The Admissions Committee meet annually. Other committees meet as required.

Work carried out in the various Committees & Governing Body

The Governing Body continues to monitor the school performance and ensure the school meets its statutory obligations. This includes:-

- Continuing to support and assist the staff in all aspects of school life.
- Reviewing pupil progress on a regular basis.
- School Improvement Plan – focus on maths, including parental engagement, attendance and creating opportunities for higher needs children to have access to social and educational setting that serves and addresses their specific needs.
- The budget was been set for the financial year in very demanding economic environment for schools. We find ourselves in a financial challenging environment where we have had state unfunded pay rises and high inflation over the year and this has put a strain on the school budget.
- Governors monitored pupil matters such as exclusions, complaints, bullying, racial incidents, child protection and attendance.
- In collaboration with the Headteacher, set targets for the academic year ahead.
- Monitor the Headteachers performance.
- Received and reviewed the Headteachers report every term.

- Building on the relationship with the NEXUS Consortium and continue to build on this.

The Governing Body continued to oversee the investment into the school premises and facility. This has included:

- Looking at the Meerkats provision and further discussions on expanding this provision.
- Continuing to recognizing the importance of Forest School and continuing to improve this provision.
- Ensuring the wrap around care in place suits the needs of the children and their parents.

Future plans for the Governors

- To continue to work with the LEA to seek funding to improve the Learning Centre to provide a more suitable environment for the Meerkats.
- To continue to reassess the wrap around care on offer.
- To continue to monitor the in year intake, to ensure that we try wherever possible to maintain full classes.
- Whilst the School is currently a LEA Foundation school, the Governors will continue to review Academisation. The Governments position on converting to Academies is unclear and the governing body intend to review the best options for Earls Colne Primary School.
- To continue to monitor the school budget closely and whilst we remain with an overall surplus, we are currently in an in year deficit, which is being funded by accumulative reserves. Long term this isn't sustainable.
- To continue to work closely with the NEXUS Consortium and build stronger relationships.

Other Documents

Other documents available from the Governors section of the school website:-

- The Board of Governors Code of Conduct
- The Board of Governors profile
- Committee remits
- Register of Business and Pecuniary Interests

How to contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Claire Smith or Vice Chair of Governors, Dan Salt, via the school office.