



ELWORTH C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
School Lane, Elworth, Sandbach
Cheshire CW11 3HU



GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - December 2024

Introduction

Welcome to Elworth Church of England Primary School, our core purpose is admirably enshrined in our school mission statement "Love God, Love learning, Love one another" (Matthew 22:34-36). Elworth is a Voluntary Controlled church school and is classed as a local authority maintained school under the remit of Cheshire East Council. This statement gives an overview of the Governing Board for parents, carers and the wider community.

My fellow Governors and I form a dedicated and experienced team of volunteers, drawn from a variety of backgrounds. We work closely with Mr Garratt and the senior leadership team at school, collaboratively setting and working towards strategic goals and aims, always striving to make decisions which will enhance the quality of our children's educational experience. The Governing Board has a clear understanding of its role to act as a "critical friend" to the leadership of the school, making rational decisions, challenging outcomes and setting ambitious targets.

Governors have specific links to a staff member/class and through regular visits record their oversight of different curriculum areas or key areas of management. This has led to the continued enrichment of a positive and 'open' culture within all aspects of school life, built upon strong links between governors and school staff.

At Elworth we value our Christian distinctiveness. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children is our priority. Developing a child's character is at the heart of every learning experience. The child's academic progress is underpinned by the ability to be responsible, resilient, respectful and reflective.

For further insight into school I would refer you to our school website.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents, carers and the school community for their continued efforts as we work together to provide a safe learning environment for all pupils.

Kind regards

Barrie Pitt - Chair of Governors.

Meet the governing board

- *Headteacher - **Neil Garratt***
- *Chair of Governors - **Barrie Pitt** Co-opted Governor*
- *Vice Chairs - **Eddie Lea and Bev Carron** Co-opted Governors*
- *Foundation Governors - **Ex Officio position VACANT, John Cargill, Nicola Hathaway***
- *Co-opted Governors - **Mark Moulding, Ruth Williams***
- *LA Governor - **Gill Merry***
- *Parent Governors - **Goodyear Lombe, Ciara Duggan***
- *Staff Governor - **Scott Heaton***
- *Associate Member - **Anthony Rigby***

*During the last academic year the **Governing Board** has adopted a “flat” structure which means that the **Full Governing Board** meets twice termly with specific terms of reference to cover the two main areas of school*

- **Teaching, Learning & Curriculum (TLC)**

TLC is responsible for monitoring overall standards of pupil learning, pupil progress and achievement (including SEN), curriculum policies and standards of teaching across the school.

- **Leadership, Management & Resources (LMR).**

LMR is responsible for the vision and strategic direction of the school, statutory duties, health and safety, safeguarding, facilities, accessibility, equality and building development.

Outside of these meetings various panel meetings take place with reporting lines back to TLC and LMR.

Changes to the Governing Board - this year we have new Governors joining us on the Board. We welcome our new parent governor - Ciara Duggan and our new foundation governor - John Cargill. The board has appointed an associate member - Anthony Rigby. We have celebrated the long service to the Governing Board provided by Stephen Parker Aiken and wished a long and happy retirement to Reverend David Page.

The Governing Board can be contacted via the school email address - admincontact@elworthce.cheshire.gov.uk .

The role of the governing board

The governing board exists to make sure that the school runs effectively. It is a strategic role, and the governing board performance manages the headteacher who runs the school on a day-to-day basis.

The core functions of the governing board are:

- *ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. The ethos at Elworth has been incorporated into the entire curriculum. School is continuing to grow into a full 2 form entry school.*
- *holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff. Governors regularly scrutinise attainment and progress data.*
- *overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent, managing the school's budget in an increasingly challenging financial climate. Expenditure is scrutinised through a robust process and the curriculum is subject to an accountable approach through consultation with senior leadership, staff and pupils.*
- *to recruit new governors where our constitution allows so that we can add value, strength and skills to the team (to comply with statutory guidance regarding safer recruitment and suitability to work in educational settings, governors undergo background checks before appointment and are required to carry out safeguarding training).*
- *to regularly review school policies in line with statutory guidance.*
- *to annually review the governing board individual skills matrix to ensure that future training can be targeted against any gaps in skills and knowledge among the team.*