

Canterbury Road Primary School's Annual Governance Statement 2026-2027

The Governing Board of Canterbury Road Primary School is committed to providing strong strategic leadership and effective oversight to ensure that every child receives a high-quality education within a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment.

In line with the Department for Education's expectations for maintained schools, the Governing Board focuses on its three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring public funds are used effectively.

The Governing Board continues to operate under the **Circle Model of Governance**, a whole-board approach that enables governors to work collectively on all aspects of governance rather than through separate committees. This model ensures that all governors have a broad understanding of the school's priorities and challenges, enabling informed discussion, effective challenge and shared decision-making.

The Board meets regularly throughout the academic year and undertakes focused monitoring activities linked to key areas of school improvement, safeguarding, curriculum development, pupil outcomes, financial management and stakeholder engagement.

During the 2026-2027 academic year, the Governing Board will focus on:

- Supporting the delivery of the School Improvement Plan.
- Maintaining high standards of teaching, learning and achievement for all pupils.
- Monitoring pupil progress and attainment, ensuring that all groups of learners are well supported and challenged.
- Ensuring effective safeguarding arrangements remain embedded throughout the school.
- Supporting pupil wellbeing, attendance and personal development.
- Maintaining financial sustainability and ensuring resources are directed towards improving outcomes for children.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and other vulnerable groups.
- Continuing to promote equality, inclusion and opportunities for all members of the school community.

The Governing Board provides support and challenge to school leaders through:

- Regular review of school performance information and progress against agreed priorities.
- Monitoring visits linked to strategic areas of responsibility.
- Scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements and statutory compliance.

- Review and approval of school policies and procedures.
- Budget monitoring and financial oversight.
- Engagement with pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.

Governors use information from school leaders, external advisers and monitoring activities to ensure that decisions are evidence-based and focused on securing the best possible outcomes for pupils.

Effective governance depends upon continuous learning and development. Governors undertake regular training to maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills. This includes safeguarding training, statutory updates and governance development opportunities provided through recognised governance organisations and local authority partners. Governors also complete periodic skills audits to identify strengths and areas for further development.

Safeguarding remains the Governing Board's highest priority. Governors receive regular reports and assurance regarding safeguarding procedures, staff training, recruitment practices and pupil wellbeing. The Board is committed to ensuring that all statutory safeguarding requirements are met and that children remain safe, supported and able to thrive.

The Governing Board recognises the importance of effective relationships with pupils, parents, carers, staff and the wider community. We welcome feedback and remain committed to listening to stakeholders to help shape the future direction of the school.