

# Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body Terling C of E [Voluntary Aided] Primary School September 2024-July 2025

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Terling Primary School Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that money is well spent.

Throughout the year, the governing body of Terling C of E Primary School diligently met to discuss and address various important matters affecting the school. Key highlights and updates are as follows:

Efforts were made to ensure the school's financial health, with particular attention being given to budgeting and cost management. The school continued to provide enriching activities funded by the PTA, including workshops with outside companies, Christmas Pantomime and participation in rugby tournaments. These initiatives greatly contributed to the holistic development of the pupils.

Regular reviews and updates were conducted on various policies, including those related to Behaviour, Equality and Diversity, Play, Collective Worship and Menopause, ensuring they remain relevant and effective in guiding the school's operations to meet the challenges of the current climate.

Safeguarding remained a top priority, with frequent updates and staff training sessions conducted to ensure the safety and well-being of all students. Single Central Records were appropriately checked by those with safeguarding responsibilities.

Governor monitoring and training continued robustly, with new governors being appointed to bring a new outlook and fresh approach to the governing body. New governors were provided with training to ensure they were prepared for the role and shadowing of more established members of the board for visits ensured consistency and support. Governor monitoring days took place within school to allow all governors to meet and share their findings.

There were some significant changes to staffing at the end of the academic year with the resignation of the Headteacher and two other established teaching members of staff who moved to promotions and new challenges within the education system. Recruitment to fill these roles was successful and new appointments made for the start of the September 2025 term.

Pupil enrolment remained stable, reflecting the school's positive reputation and commitment to providing quality education.

The school remains committed to the wellbeing and development of its pupils and staff, embodying the school values of Courage, Trust, Respect and Truthfulness. Spirituality is celebrated and pupils are encouraged to explore the wonder of the world through moments of discovery and exploration.

## **Flourish and Shine in all that we do.**

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of heavens" Daniel 12:3

*Lisa Curtis, Chair of Governors - on behalf of the Governing Body*

## **Constitution of the Governing Body**

**1 Staff Governor** – Julia Bacon

**2 Elected Parent Governors** –Emma Bundy (appointed December 2024) and Lisa Curtis. Davinia Wynne (resigned October 2024)

**1 Local Authority Governor** – Ruth Santos-Brien

**3 Foundation Governors** Andrew Redmond and Elisabeth Millard appointed by the Diocesan Education Committee. Ann White and Andrew Sime appointed by Parochial Church Council (3 vacancies)

**Ex officio Members** – Annette Hurst representing All Saints' Church

**Head Teacher** – Sarah Meares

**Clerk** – Sue Twaites

Pauline Davis, Finance Manager, is also invited to attend the meetings

## **Meet the Governors: September 2024 -July 2025**

### **The Governors**

#### **Head Teacher**

Mrs Sarah Meares, Head Teacher, is an ex-officio member of the Governing body.

#### **Staff Representative:**

##### Julia Bacon

*Julia was our Year 5-6 teacher and staff representative. She resigned from her teaching post in July 2025.*

#### **Ex-Officio Governor representing the Clergy:**

##### Anette Hurst

*Annette has previously represented the Diocese on the Governing body from 2018-2022, resigning due to work commitments. Rejoining the Governing Body in September 2024 in her current role. Annette has lived in the village since 2013 and is on the Parochial Church Council for All Saints Church. She has had a corporate career in sales and marketing before moving away from this to start her own local business.*

#### **Parent Governors - Elected by the Parents:**

##### Lisa Curtis

*Lisa (first elected in 2021) has a son in Year 3 and another son in Year 5. She currently works in the charity sector as a manager. As a previous Design and Technology and Art Teacher, she has 15 years of experience in both state and private secondary education in and out of London. Prior to becoming a teacher, she worked as an Urban Designer and Architectural Assistant. She is currently Chair of the Governing Body.*

##### Davinia Wynne

*Davina was appointed as Parent Governor in 2020. Davinia has experience in purchasing and procurement for large organisations. Davinia resigned from her post as Parent Governor in October 2024.*

##### Emma Bundy

*Emma (elected in December 2024) is a parent of two children at Terling CofE School. Emma has over 19 years of experience in Children & Family & Adult Social Care, with a background in Early Years Education. She is a registered Social Worker and holds a safeguarding leadership role with a local authority.*

#### **Foundation Governors – appointed by the Diocesan Education Committee:**

##### Elisabeth Millard

*Elizabeth has over 20 years' experience of working with children in and out of mainstream education. She currently works across Primary schools in a range of contexts. She has 2 children and volunteers at Terling CofE School on a regular basis.*

##### Andrew Redmond

*Andrew is retired. He has many years' experience in school estate management and health and safety in schools, working with Government departments and Local Authorities. He is Chair of the Finance Committee.*

#### **Foundation Governors – appointed by the Parochial Church Council:**

##### Ann White

*Ann is retired and lives in Fuller Street. She taught in both Secondary and Primary schools in the UK before moving overseas where she taught in Uganda and then Bangladesh.*

##### Andy Sime

*Andy has been a governor at Terling School since 2011, first as a parent governor and after as a staff representative until 2023. He works as a teacher in another school and rejoined the Governing Board but resigned at the end of the academic year 2025.*

**Local Authority Governor – appointed by Essex County Council:**

Ruth Santos-Brien

Ruth previously had two children attend the school. She currently works in a global consulting firm across Europe managing large teams. As a volunteer at the school, she loves helping children learn about other languages and cultures. Ruth reigned at the start of the new academic year September 2025.

**Attendance at Meetings – September 2024 – July 2025**

The Governing Body met twice a term. There is also a Finance and Premises Committee which met each term and reported to the full Governing Body. The meetings are a combination of face to face and virtual meetings. Minutes of the Governor’s meetings are available in the School Office.

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Attendance of meetings out of total possible number of meetings</b>
Ruth Santos Brien	3/6
Lisa Curtis	6/6
Sarah Meares	6/6
Elisabeth Millard	5/6
Andrew Redmond	6/6
Annette Hurst	5/6
Andrew Sime	2/6 (term ended July 2025)
Emma Bundy	4/4 (term started December 2024)
Julia Bacon	-/6
Ann White	6/6
Davinia Wynne	0/1 (term ended October 2024)
Pauline Davies (School Business Manager)	3/6

**2024/2025 Academic Year**

Governor monitoring continues to be aligned to the School Development Plan.

We have been pleased to have presentations from Curriculum Leaders at several of our meetings to share their expertise and delve deeper into the curriculum structure. These have increased our knowledge regarding the teaching of the subjects, and, in many cases, have been followed by a Governor visit.

The Governors will continue to work with the new head Mrs Sapiano and her staff to support the needs of all the pupils.

**Contacting the Governing Body**

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Lisa Curtis, via the school office.