



**Annual Governance Statement  
for the  
Governing Board of Shirland Primary School  
2024 - 2025**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the four core strategic functions of Shirland Primary School's Governing Board are:

- ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff;
- overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent; and
- ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard.

**Governance arrangements**

The Governing Board of Shirland Primary School is made up of:

- A Local Authority governor (nominated)
- The Head Teacher (de facto)
- A staff governor (elected)
- Three parent governors (elected)
- Five co-opted governors (nominated)

The Board has a total of eleven members. The quorum for a meeting and any decision making is 50% of the current membership.

The Governing Board will continue to strive towards the creation of a solid and diverse membership, allowing the best chance to both support and provide constructive challenge to the school and its leadership. It will continue to challenge the Head Teacher to ensure continuous improvement and will review the financial management of the school on a regular basis.

Governors shall ensure meetings are held in a professional manner and promote open debate. The views of all members of the Board, alongside those of parents and staff, shall always be respected and heard.

In line with the goal of improving parental engagement, governors shall raise their visibility to parents and school staff by increasing the number of visits into school for curriculum and link-governor visits. Governors will utilise other opportunities to visit school such as during parents' evenings, fund raising events and meeting both prospective parents and parents of new starters. Governors shall listen carefully to views from pupils, parents and school staff and use these to inform the longer-term school strategy.

The Governing Body has programme of meetings throughout the school year as follows –

### **Academy Governing Body**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 6.00 pm

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 at 6.00 pm

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 6.00 pm

### **Attendance record of governors**

A record is kept by the Clerk to the Governing Board of governors' attendance at meetings, and the detail of attendance is attached (see Excel spreadsheet). Meetings need to be 'quorate' to ensure that decisions can be made.

### **The work undertaken in the Governing Board meetings**

The Governing Board of Shirland Primary School agrees Terms of Reference for the Full Board and each of the committees at the beginning of each year. Governors sign a Code of Conduct, established on the Nolan Principles of Public Life. It is expected that a governor will commit to attending the meetings of the full board, but there are specific areas of responsibility identified including the Safeguarding Governor, the Anti-bullying Governor, responsibility for reporting on and monitoring the spending of Pupil Premium, individual areas of the curriculum such as Maths Governor, English & Arts Governor, and the Early Years Foundation Stage. There is a Link Governor for Special Needs, for Computing & Sports, and for Science. Identifying these areas of responsibility enables the Board to ensure that they fulfil their role as supporting and challenging the delivery of the school's curriculum and make best use of the budget and all resources within the school.

Link Governors visit school to discuss their areas of responsibility with key staff across the school. Part of the visit will include consideration of Safeguarding, GDPR and Equality Objectives to ensure these areas of practice are embedded across the curriculum. A report on the visit(s) is written and submitted to the Full Board for discussion and

consideration. Governors seek to triangulate their knowledge and experience of the work of the school in this way.

### **School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

The school's key priorities for the coming academic year include its own areas of focus, the guidance on issues to address from Ofsted, and the desire to ensure a smooth transition to its membership of the Christopher Nieper Education Trust (CNET). Thus, the school's SIP priorities include –

to embed Grammarsaurus and improve outcomes in writing; to implement new strategies for metacognition to support children 'knowing more and remembering more'; to review the school's approach to the recall of prior learning so that staff systematically revisit the key content from previous years, helping all pupils to remember it securely over the long term; to refine the curriculum thinking so that pupils gradually build their disciplinary knowledge in readiness for the next stage of their education and do not confuse learning in one subject with another; to establish a successful membership and partnership with CNET; and to continue to improve and support strong academic standards in all schools.

The governors of Shirland Primary School are committed to ensuring that this vision is delivered and will support the Head Teacher, staff and community to ensure this is achieved.

#### **How to contact your Governing Body**

The Chair of Governors, Mr Tim Farndon, can be contacted through the school -

Shirland Primary School  
Park Lane  
Shirland  
Alfreton  
Derbyshire  
DE55 6BH

Telephone: 01773 832426

Email: [tfarndon@shirland.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:tfarndon@shirland.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Information about the School's Governing Board is available on the governors' page of the school's website.

#### **Shirland Primary School Governing Board Membership as of January 2025**

<b>Governor</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Term of office expiry date</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
Tim Farndon	Local Authority	11.05.2028	None
Louise Vessey	Head Teacher	N/A	Member of NASUWT
Jessica Dolman	Staff Governor	31.12.2025	Member of NAHT
Adele Price	Parent Governor	11.01.2026	SENDCo at St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Rebecca Dart	Parent Governor	19.12.2026	None
Kayley Parsons	Parent Governor	19.12.2026	None
David Williamson	Co-opted Governor	26.09.2026	Parish Councillor Trustee of Fidler & Lavarace
Claire Forrest	Co-opted Governor	02.05.2026	None
Emily Seals	Co-opted Governor	02.04.2026	Self-employed dairy farming
Johnathan Walmsley	Co-opted Governor	21.11.2026	Head Teacher at Northfield Junior School
Dee Hill	Co-opted Governor	21.01.2025	Trustee of DDDSS (Derby), Vice Chair of Governors at Cotmanhay Junior School, and Derbyshire Leader of Governance