



Annual Statement of Oakthorpe Primary School Governing Body

Governing bodies' core functions

We are the strategic leaders of our school and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education. As a maintained school this is reflected in the law, which states that the purpose of maintained school governing bodies is to 'conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school'

The governors of Oakthorpe are very proud to be part of the Oakthorpe family. At Oakthorpe, we strive to be a centre of excellence, fostering a strong sense of family and community harmony. We prepare children to be confident, respectful, creative, and responsible citizens, emphasizing a positive and inclusive environment that celebrates each child's success. With high standards and a commitment to excellence, we provide every child the opportunity to enjoy learning and thrive. We have strong and trusting relationships with the staff and community and strive for a robust focus on the three Governance core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school
3. Overseeing the financial performance and making sure its money is well spent.

Strategic Priorities for the Academic Year

Our overriding priority for 2025-26 was to secure a seamless leadership transition following the appointment of our new Headteacher. Working in close partnership, the Governing Body focused on establishing a robust oversight of educational standards and financial sustainability.

Key strategic priorities included:

1. **Financial Sustainability & Due Diligence:** Supporting the Headteacher in conducting a rigorous review of the school budget to build a sustainable, robust three-year financial strategy.
2. **School Improvement & Standards:** Collaborating with leadership to refine and strengthen the School Development Plan (SDP), ensuring key priorities drive pupil outcomes.
3. **Leadership & Organisational Transition:** Supporting the Headteacher and senior leadership team through restructures, ensuring clarity in new roles, responsibilities, and staffing arrangements.
4. **Community Well-being:** Actively championing the health and well-being of pupils, staff, and the wider school community during a period of strategic change.

Governance, Accountability, and Impact

To ensure these priorities were met effectively, the Governing Body exercised rigorous challenge and support through Full Governing Body (FGB) meetings and two core sub-committees: **Resources (Finance & Premises)** and **Curriculum (Quality of Education)**.

Governance activity and oversight were further strengthened through:

- ▢ **Targeted Governor Visits:** Monitoring progress first-hand against the revised School Development Plan.
- ▢ **Continuous Professional Development:** Engaging in governor training to maintain strong skill sets and governance best practice.
- ▢ **External Advice & Partnership:** Drawing on expert guidance from **Haringey Education Partnership (HEP)** and our **Local Authority Adviser** to benchmark school performance and validate self-evaluation.

Key Outcomes & Impact

- **Secured Financial Health:** A thorough financial review delivered a strong, realistic three-year budget that protects educational provision while ensuring long-term stability.
- **Driven Strategic Improvement:** The newly strengthened School Development Plan provides a clear, measurable roadmap for school growth and pupil progress. It also allows for the following 3 year SDP to be robust.
- **Established Strong Leadership Foundations:** Smooth transitional leadership and clear organizational structures have positioned the school strongly for the year ahead.

Governors' main priorities for 2026-2027

The Governing Body has established four core strategic priorities for the 2026/27 academic year:

- **Strategic Governance:** Strengthening our strategic approach to Link Governor roles and committee structures.
- **School Improvement:** Ensuring all governors clearly understand their roles in driving and supporting school improvement and the new OFSTED Framework expectations.
- **Financial Robustness:** Supporting the Headteacher in maintaining a robust and sustainable three-year budget.
- **Community Engagement:** Building stronger relationships with parents and extending our outreach into the wider community