

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of St Anne's Fulshaw Primary School  
2023-24**

Maxine Drabble – Chair of Governors

**The Governors are appointed and elected to:**

- Create and protect the school's vision and ethos
- Provide an independent and strategic view
- Be part of a team focusing on long term development and improvement
- Provide a visible form of accountability for the headteacher and staff of the school
- Maintain the Christian character of the school
- Ensure links to the community we serve and the wider community
- Support the school, the Head and staff
- Know our school
- Put the children first

**St Anne's Governing  
Body**

All governors are volunteers, consisting of staff, parents, clergy and members of the wider community. A governor's role is to be strategic, to guide, to challenge, to monitor and support the school and its staff, who run the operation of the school day to day.

The Governing Body of St Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary School is made up of the following:

- 4 co-opted governors
- 2 parent governors
- 2 foundation governors (including the current incumbent)
- 1 staff governor
- 1 Local Authority governor
- The Headteacher

Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

The full Governing Body meets once each term, or more as required. Occasionally there is a need to call an extraordinary FGB meeting. We also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail, these committees report directly to the Full Governing Body. Our committee structure is as follows:

1. Resources Committee, which focuses on finance, premises and related financial personnel matters
2. Aims and Achievement Committee which focuses on our curriculum and pupils' achievements (both academically and otherwise) and pupils' learning and experience at school.
3. Personnel, Pay and Performance Committee.

We also have committees that meet to consider pupil discipline, complaints and staffing matters if and when required.

In addition to Full Governing Body and committee membership, governors have specific link governor roles. Governors monitor and review the work of the school in specific subject areas and responsibilities and this work feeds in directly to our Strategic School Development Plan.

	<p>The culture, values and ethos is crucial to governors of St Anne's and as a Christian school, our aim is to ensure our actions and decisions are considered against those values.</p> <p>It is important for us to be visible. We are also able to keep up to date with the daily life and news of the school via the weekly newsletter, The Friday Flyer, as well as class and school X and Instagram pages.</p> <p>It is important that as a smaller school we forge and maintain good links with our wider community, the Church, our local residents, shops and more. So often I am glad to report that locals refer to our school as a lovely, special place, with well-behaved pupils. This goodwill benefits all in our community and is important to our success. We know St Anne's is a special community and continue to strive to keep this the case.</p> <p>See our website for a full list of our governors and a short biog.  <a href="http://www.stannesfulshaw.net/page/governors/2304">http://www.stannesfulshaw.net/page/governors/2304</a></p>
<p><b>Attendance record of governors</b></p>	<p>Governors have generally excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). We are currently looking for an additional parent governor and a Local Authority governor, and are happy to discuss these vacancies with individuals to see if their skills would add value to our governing body.</p> <p>See attendance detail below.</p>
<p><b>The work of the school, governors and committees.</b></p>	<p>The Governing Body is responsible for in excess of 60 policies, many of which are statutory (i.e. required by the DfE), many are reviewed annually and the work is divided through our committees in the main. The Governing Body's role is to review, amend and discuss policies as is required by law and according to the school's requirements. It also ratifies and records these policies.</p> <p>Governors undergo training throughout the year, new governors receive induction training and can and should select courses relevant to the work their committees require and the areas of strategic focus for the forthcoming year. This underpins the commitment that all governors make to the school and its pupils.</p> <p><b><u>Ofsted</u></b></p> <p>Our most recent Ofsted inspection was in 2023 when we were rated as Outstanding in 2 of the 5 areas inspected, and achieved an overall rating of Good. This is exceptionally satisfying for a small school after all the challenges of recent years and reflects very well on both children and staff.  <a href="https://www.stannesfulshaw.net/serve_file/17863458">https://www.stannesfulshaw.net/serve_file/17863458</a></p> <p><b><u>MyHappyMind</u></b></p> <p>As an emotionally healthy school, the embedding of this programme has had a clear and measurable impact on the wellbeing of our school community, highlighted in our Ofsted outcomes and in the report. Governors have supported the expansion of our Learning Mentor's role and mental health support in our school and this work has been recognised with a Silver Award from MyHappyMind.  <a href="https://www.stannesfulshaw.net/page/myhappymind/131094">https://www.stannesfulshaw.net/page/myhappymind/131094</a></p> <p><b><u>Wilmslow Youth</u></b></p>

We continue to work with Wilmslow Youth as part of our Year 6 pupils' transition to Year 7 programme. This has been well received by staff and pupils and we will be part of this expanding programme ongoing for the 2024-25 cohort and beyond.

### **Our Committees**

The **Aims and Achievements Committee** reviews a large number of policies including those relating to safeguarding and vulnerable children.

The committee reviews the work of the HT and staff at a strategic level with regard to all areas of the curriculum, school data, SATS results and progress data, safeguarding and child protection to name a few. Our school uses a very effective monitoring tool so teachers and governors more widely can see where our children are succeeding and use this data to feed our improvement strategies and focus for forthcoming years.

The **Resources Committee** reviews all finance and premises matters. The HT, Committee Chair and LA Budget Officer meet three times per year to set, review and plan the school's budget given the funds provided by government. School budgets are as you may imagine suffering considerably in these difficult times.

The huge pressures on our school, and schools in general, on our SEN budgets, remain. Our school and governors are committed to ensuring our children are supported first and foremost and we work to this end always, although the constraints caused by lack of funding are very frustrating to all involved in the school. I am very grateful of the work and support of our governors and all the staff to ensure we never forget to put our children first whilst balancing our finances.

Our **Personnel, Pay and Performance Committee** monitors many policies and pay arrangements, staffing structure and much more. A panel of governors also conducts the Head Teacher's Performance Appraisal.

**Minutes of Governing Body and Committee** meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the governors' page of our website or you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings. Minutes are published the following term after the meeting at which they were approved.

### **Challenges faced by our Governing Body over the past year.**

1. Finances – Always a particular difficulty in most schools in these times but sometimes it can feel hard in a small school where there are many pressures. Staff carry some heavy work burdens.
2. Declining birth rates have resulted in a lower pupil roll and we have taken the difficult decision to move from 5 classes to 4 classes from September 2024.
3. Our school is increasingly diverse compared to the ward profile in this area, and whilst we can face challenges of language for example we embrace and celebrate all the positives that this offers our community and we are richer for it.
4. A small school comes with both huge positives and indeed some challenges.

<p><b>Future plans for the governors</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the staff as they acclimatise to the new 4 class structure.</li> <li>2. Monitor the impact of the curriculum changes necessitated by the move to four classes. Add more governor link visits to our schedule.</li> <li>3. Raise the profile of our school and continue to build on our links with the local community in particular our Churches.</li> <li>4. Support our governing body as it welcomes new members and looks for new governors to join us.</li> <li>5. Develop our links with Wilmslow Youth Charity to prepare our Year 6 for transition into their high school education.</li> </ol>
<p><b>How you can contact the Governing Body</b></p>	<p>If you would like to discuss joining our governing body, feel free to get in touch for an informal discussion. We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Maxine Drabble, via the school office or at <a href="mailto:mdrabble@stannesfulshaw.net">mdrabble@stannesfulshaw.net</a></p>

**St Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary School Governing Body Attendance 2023-24**

<b>Governor</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Attended FGB on 27.11.23</b>	<b>Attended FGB on 18.03.24</b>	<b>Attended FGB on 17.06.24</b>
Ms Maxine Drabble	Co-opted Governor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mrs Natalie Lloyd	Co-opted Governor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mrs Sally Petrie	Co-opted Governor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mr Matt Williamson	Co-opted Governor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mrs Claire Carter	LA Governor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rev Eddie Roberts	Foundation Governor	Apologies sent	Yes	Yes
Mrs Angela Fitton	Foundation Governor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ms Clare Daniel	Headteacher	Yes	Yes	Yes