



Annual Governance Statement – September 2025 – August 2026

This is a live document with ongoing updates

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, and the Governors' Code of Conduct (approved Jan 22), the four core strategic functions for the schools for the schools governing body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
4. Ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body of Belper Long Row Primary and Nursery School was reconstituted on July 2021 and amended in Jan 22. It is made up of 10 governors, each having a four-year term of office. The membership is:

- Head Teacher
- One Local Authority governor
- One staff governor
- Four parent governors
- Four co-opted governors

The Chair of Governors is Mr Andy Fairhurst.

The Vice-Chair of Governors is Mrs Emma Monkman.

The governing body has a programme of meetings throughout the year and a committee structure that focuses on specific areas of governance:

Two committees are Resource and Standards committee.

Approved minutes are available on request through the school office.

Contacting your Governing Body

Information about the school's governing body is available on the governors' page of the school website. Governors can be contacted by the following methods:

By telephone 01773 823319

By letter Chair of Governors

Long Row Primary School
Long Row
Belper
Derbyshire
DE56 1DR

By email info@longrow.derbyshire.sch.uk

Current Membership of the Governing Body

Governor	Category	Date of Appointment	Expiry of Office
Mrs L. White	Head Teacher	1/9/2021	N/A
Mr A. Fairhurst	Local Authority	20/3/2021	19/3/2028
Mrs D. Hamlin	Co-opted	24/1/2022	23/1/2026
Mr M. Hanford	Co-opted	8/7/2019	7/7/2024
Cllr E. Monkman	Co-opted	22/11/2022	21/11/2026
Mr D. Keen	Parent	28/1/2019	27/1/2027
Mr M. Hawkins	Parent	13/11/2020	12/11/2024
Mrs E Cooper	Parent	26/11/2021	25/11/2025
Mrs J Jones	Staff	24/1/2022	23/1/2026

Committee Structure and Membership

Standards Committee

Mrs White
Cllr E. Monkman (chair)

Mr M. Hawkins

Mrs J. Jones

Resource Committee

Mrs L. White
Mr A. Fairhurst
Mrs E Cooper
Mr D. Keen (chair)
Mrs J Jones

Governors with Specific Responsibilities

Mrs E. Monkman	- Child protection / Safeguarding / Looked after children / Anti-bullying
Mr A. Fairhurst	- Pupil progress Maths. Website audit

Mr D. Keen - Pupil progress Sports
 Mr M Hawkins - Pupil Progress English
 Mrs E. Cooper - EYFS, Nursery/2 year olds

Full Governors' and Committee Meeting Dates

Date	Committee / Meeting	Time
22nd September 2025	Standards Committee	6.00 – 6.45pm
	Resource Committee – Budget Review	6.45 - 7.30pm
	Full Governors'	7.30 – 8.30pm
17 th November 2025	Resource Committee	6.00 – 6.45pm
	Full Governors'	6.45 - 8.00pm
	Standards Committee	6.00 - 7.00pm
	Resource Committee – Budget Review	7.00 - 7.30pm
	Full Governors'	7.30 - 9.00pm
	Resource Committee	6.00 - 7.30pm
	Full Governors'	7.30 - 9.00pm
	Standards Committee	6.00 – 7.00pm
	Resource Committee – Budget Review	7.00 – 7.30pm
	Full Governors'	7.30 – 9.00pm
	Resource Committee	6.00 -7.30pm
	Full Governors' - AGM	7.30 – 9.00pm

Governors Attendance Record 2025-2026

	22/09/2025			17/09/2025		19/01/2026			09/03/2026		27/04/2026			13/07/2026		
Name	RC	FGM	SC	RC	FGM	SC	FGM	RC	RC	FGM	SC	RC	FGM	RC	FGM AGM	Total attendance at FGM
LW	✓	✓	✓													
AF	✓	✓	N/A													
DK	✓	✓	N/A													
DH	N/A	✓	✓	N/A												
MH	N/A	Abs	Abs	N/A												
JJ	✓	✓	✓													
EM	N/A	Abs	Abs	N/A												
MW	Abs	Abs	N/A													
EC	✓	✓	N/A													
AH	N/A	✓	✓													

Governor Training Record

Name									
AF	/	/ Via NSPCC	/	Apol	Apol	NA	/		
DK	/		Apol	/	NA	/	/		
DH									
MH									
JJ	/		/	/	NA	NA	/		
EM							/		
RG									
EC							/		

Governors' Declaration of Business, Pecuniary and Personal Interests

Governor

Business, Pecuniary and Personal Interests. Membership of Professional Bodies / Organisations.

	Governor / Trustee Position held in another school / organisation.
Mrs L. White	None
Mr A. Fairhurst	None
Mrs D. Hamlin	None
Mrs J. Jones	None
Mr D. Keen	Parent Governor – Children at Long Row
Mrs E Cooper	Parent Governor – Children at Long Row
Mr M. Hawkins	Parent Governor – Children at Long Row
Cllr E. Monkman	Belper Town Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Ward Councillor for Belper North, Flood Warden, Chair of facilities and environment for local economy committee, Deputy Leader Amber Valley Labour Group

Governor Visits

Governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the school's development plan and specific issues identified through the School Improvement Plan (SIP). These visits are an invaluable opportunity for governors to work with staff members. In addition, subject link governors both monitor and review activities undertaken by subject and/or phase leaders. The development of a governor monitoring timetable has ensured that governors have an accurate picture of the performance of the school and can support school improvement as well as monitor and challenge current school practice and policies. Governors attend school open evenings, assemblies, presentations, and information evenings, including sporting and musical events, in order to engage with all members of the school's community. Furthermore, governors seek opportunities for the pupils to be ambassadors for the school in the local community and further afield.

Governor Monitoring 2025/2026

Governor

Date

Reason for visit / monitoring

Data Analysis

Data is made available to governors through written and verbal presentations providing an opportunity for the members of the board to challenge the Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team on the educational standards of the school and its pupils. Link governors meet with subject leaders for an update regularly and this includes scrutiny of the curriculum, standards, and data from all year groups. This enables members of the governing body to ask questions about pupils' progress and achievement.

Policies

Governors review all relevant policy documents on a regular basis to ensure that guidance is relevant, accurate and up to date. Specific attention is given to the Department for Education's statutory requirements and compliance tests.

Staff Recruitment

The Head Teacher and a number of governors are trained in Safer Recruitment and ensure their training is kept up to date. Governors are involved in the recruitment and selection process to ensure that high quality staff, who share the school's vision and ethos, are appointed. Governors work hard to recruit high quality teachers and leaders. A wide range of strategies are implemented to ensure that the right staff are appointed and can drive forward the actions necessary to improve the school.

Financial Management – Resource Committee

The governors work with staff at the school to address and comply with the School Financial Value Standard each year. Governors ensure that the budget is well-managed, and improvements are effective and on-going. The school is subject to external audit to ensure value for money and good budget management is achieved.

Safeguarding

Governors take responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements meet statutory requirements. They evaluate and review the annual safeguarding audit. Governor signs off the single central record monthly.

Strategic Planning for the Future

Governors on the standards committee work co-operatively with the Head Teacher and senior leadership team to develop the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP details the school's priorities and is based on the issues identified through data analysis, self-evaluation, and Ofsted priorities. The SIP establishes clear strategies and tasks, details who is responsible for carrying out these tasks and the resources required to deliver them, and the monitoring tasks and procedures of the governing board.

School Improvement Plan 2025/26

SIP Key Priority 1

EYFS

SIP Key Priority 2

Leadership and management

SIP Key Priority 3

Personal Development

SIP Key Priority 4

Behaviour and Attitudes

SIP Key Priority 5

Quality of Education

What the Governing Board achieved in 2025/26 that will make a difference to the children in this school:

- The progress the pupils have made in key areas
- Governors have agreed the School Improvement Plan which directly impact the children
- Raised the confidence of Governors for future Ofsted visit with the School Improvement Plan

- Dates agreed for Governor Monitoring visits
- Direct parents to the pupil data on the school website
- Approved Behaviour Policy & Anti-bullying Policy
- Use of school data to improve School Improvements Plan
- Devise a crib sheet for parents with tips for dealing with children's behaviour
- Budget is heading in the right direction and looking promising
- Building work, including electrical works have finished and no more disruptions to the children
- Discussed the issue to RAAC and the fact that it is strongly believed that Long Row is not affected by it.
- Safeguarding Training completed by Governors and staff
- Website review - Gold Standard
- Budget is looking particularly good
- Policies, including Uniform and Disciplinary procedures have been approved
- Discussion around phonics and SSPF (Super Sonic Phonic Friends)
- We may wish to share with parents the fact that all staff and Governors have attended Safeguarding training.
- Website is comprehensive /exceeds compliance.
- Maintained a healthy budget allowing the provision for educating our children
- Pupil Premium strategy - funding in place to support our children
- Policies, practices and audits ensure the safety of children and staff in school.
- Decorators around the school are doing an excellent job and as such making the learning environment for pupils and staff alike a pleasant one.
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- Discussed Pupil Premium strategy and the impact on pupils.
- The need to ensure pupil parent pay accounts are kept up to date.
- Review of Safeguarding Report
- Feedback/Formative assessments discussed - how can we teach/demonstrate children understand what they are being taught.
- Reviewed and agreed SIP
- SMILERS parent/community event success - have an impact for families.
- Ensuring all staff wellbeing whilst waiting for Ofsted through Governor meetings and regular check-ins

- Parents evening feedback and thank you for a fantastic response
- Good discussion on safeguarding and the safety policy
- Governors continue to regularly visit school, update their training and partake in school initiatives.
- The Careful use of school resources therefore allowing extra source of income
- Approved various policies
- PTA have gained charitable status
- Ensuring school debt is managed
- Governors have reviewed the progress children have and are making. And it is clear where school is aiming with targeted children.
- Governors interrogated that data presented to them and asked challenging questions.
- Various policies were reviewed and approved.
- Governors have a better understanding of phonics and where the school stance is on the teaching of phonic
- Increase the number of Governors to improve quorate.
- There has been an increase in the instances of bullying on school grounds from parents/carers. Long Row has a zero-tolerance culture within school, it will not be tolerated and if needed will be escalated to the police.
- Reviewed SEND report