

Chairs Annual Report 2024-25

At Chilham St Mary's Church of England Primary School, our Governing Board is made up of dedicated volunteers, parents, staff members, and committed individuals from our wider community, who work together to support the school and its pupils. The only exceptions to this volunteer status are the Headteacher and the staff governor.

Chilham Governing Board

Mr James Dearden	Chair of Governors
Mr Dan Sherlock	Vice Chair of Governors
Miss Rebecca Dolan	Head Teacher
Mrs Brenda Ladley	Foundation Governor
Dr Sophie Duncan	Foundation Governor
Ms Hester Fenwick	Co-Opted Governor
Miss Chloë Arnold	Staff Governor
Mrs Charlotte Tillyard	Local Authority Governor
Dr Vanessa Hutchinson	Parent Governor
Mrs Sarah Osborne	Parent Governor
Reverend S Martin	Ex-Officio Foundation Governor
Jacqui Wapshott	Clerk of Governors

We meet regularly to provide strategic oversight and ensure the school continues to thrive. All meetings are professionally minuted, and copies of these minutes are available upon request from the school office.

The Governing Board's core responsibilities include:

1. **Setting the vision, ethos, and strategic direction** of the school.
2. **Holding the Headteacher to account** for the educational performance of pupils and the management of staff.
3. **Overseeing the school's financial health**, ensuring resources are used effectively.
4. **Ensuring policies are applied fairly** across the entire school community.



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Our governors bring a diverse range of expertise, from education and finance to health and safety and leadership, which enables us to guide and monitor the school's strategic development effectively. We actively participate in both formal and informal visits, contributing to the creation and evaluation of the School Development Plan.

Each board meeting includes a detailed report from the Headteacher, covering curriculum highlights, pupil progress, attendance, and school-wide achievements. Governors are always eager to understand what children are learning, how their development is being supported, and to celebrate the successes of the whole school.

This year has been especially meaningful, as both the Headteacher and I are new to our roles. It has been a privilege to get to know the school, its pupils, and the wider community. We've thoroughly enjoyed our first year and look forward to continuing this journey together.

Throughout the year, governors have conducted numerous monitoring visits, giving us valuable insight into daily school life. These visits allow us to engage directly with pupils and staff, and to witness the vibrant learning environment firsthand.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone within our school community. Your dedication and hard work are instrumental in creating an exceptional educational experience for all our children and their families.

James Dearden
Chair of Governors

Love Trust Respect Honesty Forgiveness Perseverance



The Diocese of
Canterbury
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

