Church Road, Milford Godalming GU8 5JA



2020 – 2021 GOVERNING BODY TERMS OF REFERENCE

OUTLINE

Core responsibilities for the Governing Body are laid out in the 2019 Governance Handbook. To summarise:

The purpose of governance is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance.

All boards, no matter what type of schools or how many schools they govern, have three core functions:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- 2. Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

At Milford School we do not delegate authority to sub-committees. Instead, The Full Governing Body meets twice a term, focussing on Finance and Resources and Teaching and Learning issues as well as any other business relevant at that time. Time at each meeting will be allocated to each main area according to its priority in the governance review programme. The Governing Body agrees assignments or activities arising from the business of the meeting; these are recorded in the minutes.

In addition to agreeing activities or actions on its behalf, the Governing Body may delegate monitoring activities to individuals or groups. This can apply to statutory functions, the priorities of the Strategic Development and School Development Plans and national or local priorities.

In each case where a function has been delegated there is a duty to report any action or decision to the Governing Body at the next agreed meeting. Governors are expected to read reports and submit questions arising from them before the Governing Body meetings.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Body (GB) must allocate roles required by statute and terms of reference. It will then choose to allocate responsibilities which will best ensure the GB fulfils its duties and best suits the working of the school.

REQUIRED ROLES

- 1. Chair
- 2. Vice-Chair
- Governor responsible for liaison with LA in the event of allegation (Child Protection) against Headteacher
- 4. Safeguarding & Child Protection
- 5. Special Needs & Disabilities
- 6. Children Looked After (CLA)

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Additional responsibilities vary but the following are recommended:

- 7. Finance
- 8. Performance Management
- 9. Early Years
- 10. Curriculum
- 11. Pupil Premium
- 12. Health & Safety
- 13. Training & Skills

Plus other specific areas which reflect the priorities of the government, local area or the school e.g.

- Collaboration
- Blended learning
- · Recovery curriculum

Governors with specific responsibilities become the GB's 'expert' in the area and ensure that the school is discharging its associated duties before reporting back to the Governing Body. Monitoring may take the form of school visits, telephone calls, emails etc., book scrutiny. A visit does not necessarily have to take place during the time when pupils are in school, and could be just as effective as a meeting between governors and the lead professional at the end of the day as mutually agreed. Monitoring can be undertaken by other governors in addition. Role descriptions and expectations for the above responsibilities are laid out in a separate document.

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DELEGATION

The Governing Body must draw up new terms of reference. It is essential that any delegation of responsibility is clearly specified. Below are the terms that Milford Governing Body has agreed:

- 1. The Governing Body
- 2. Delegation of Functions to Headteacher
- 3. Delegation of Functions to individuals or groups.
- 4. Terms of Reference Pay Committee
- 5. Terms of Reference Panel Hearings
- 6. Terms of Reference Headteacher Performance Management Group
- 7. Alternative participation & voting protocol
- 8. Governors Code of Conduct

1. Governing Body

Governing Body Terms of Reference

Items in bold cannot be delegated.

Operational

- To draw up the Instrument of Government and any amendments thereafter
- To review the standing order for election of the Chair and Vice Chair including the length of the term of office.
- Elect (or remove) the Chair and Vice Chair.
- To appoint (or dismiss) the Clerk to the Governing Body.
- To hold at least 6 Governing Body meetings each year.
- To appoint and remove any associate members.
- To suspend or remove a Governor.
- To decide which functions of the Governing Body will be delegated and to whom.
- To receive reports from any pair or individual to whom a delegation has been made and to consider whether any further action by the Governing Body is necessary.
- To review the delegation arrangements annually.
- To recruit new Governors as vacancies arise.
- To set up and publish a register of Governors' Business Interests.
- To approve and set up a Governors' Expenses & Allowances Scheme.
- To regulate the Governing Body procedures where not set out in law, and record these as Standing Orders.
- To delegate to the Headteacher the functions as described in the Delegation of Functions to Headteacher Standing Order (attached).
- To assign individuals or pairs of Governors to monitor the priorities of the School Improvement Plan in accordance with the attached terms of reference.
- To arrange a suitable induction process and mentoring for newly appointed or elected Governors.
- To audit individual and collective development needs and promote appropriate training.
- To ensure the Headteacher provides such reports as requested by the Governing Body to enable it to undertake its role.
- To receive reports on bullying, homophobic and racial incidents.

General

- Regularly review the vision and values of the school and ensure that these are shared with all stakeholders.
- To take an active role in School Self Evaluation identifying success and areas requiring improvement.
- To update and review regularly the School Improvement Plan identifying monitoring opportunities for the Governing Body.
- To review regularly how the school is regarded by pupils and parents.
- To ensure the school has in place all statutory policies and to keep these under regular review, consulting with representative stakeholders as appropriate.
- To approve policies on review.
- To approve all school trips involving an overnight stay away from home.
- To ensure that the school does not discriminate against pupils, job applicants or staff on the basis of race, religion, gender, age disability or sexual orientation.

- To discharge duties in respect of pupils with special needs by appointing a 'SEND Governor'.
- To ensure the school has a Complaints Procedure for Parents and that parents know how to raise concerns and make a complaint.
- To ensure that the Governing Body complies with all other legal duties placed upon them.

Budget

- To approve the first formal budget plan each year.
- To engage in strategic planning.
- To agree a 3 year budget.
- To analyse and recommend the annual budget.
- To annually review and approve the Finance Policy and recommend levels of delegation.
- To annually review and approve the Charging and Remissions policy.
- To make decisions in respect of service agreements and insurance
- To ensure the school complies with the SFVS guidelines
- To review and take account of any consultations to change the LA Finance Scheme.

Possible delegation to Finance Governor:

- To maintain an up-to-date 'balanced' three year budget plan, which shows clear links to the School Improvement and Staffing plans.
- To report monitoring and rollover to the Governing Body, highlighting any significant variances.
- To evaluate any virement recommendations and report to the Governing Body.
- Analyse and report on Tenders for Contract Services.
- To keep in-school financial procedures under review.
- To benchmark school financial performance against similar schools and report to the Governing Body.
- To evaluate proposed expenditure following recommendations from the Headteacher and present to the Governing Body.
- To ensure that the school is working within the guidance of the Schools Financial Value Standard and Assurance (SFVS) recommendations.
- To ensure that all spending provides 'Value for money' in terms of raising standards in education.
- To monitor and evaluate the management of the Voluntary Fund and to receive the audited accounts.
- To make regular reports to the Governing Body and ensure that key financial decisions are recorded correctly in the minutes.

Staffing

- To make Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher appointments.
- To agree staffing policies which provide for governor involvement.
- To determine the staff complement.
- To agree a Pay policy and pay discretions.
- To annually review the impact of and implementation of the Pay policy.
- To establish a Governor panel to hear staff appeals against dismissal, redundancy or grievances.
- To dismiss the Headteacher.
- To end the suspension of staff or Headteacher.
- To determine dismissal payments/early retirement.
- To decide whether the Director of Education authority should have advisory rights.

Curriculum

- Ensure the National Curriculum is taught to all pupils, except for those children to whom disapplication has been applied.
- To monitor the Curriculum policy if there is one in place.
- To establish a Charging policy for activities.

Performance Management

- To establish and review and approve annually the Performance Management policy.
- To determine the timing of the Headteacher appraisal review cycle and appoint two or three Governors to act as reviewers alongside an external advisor.

	 To ensure the effective use of performance management amongst all staff to drive the school's objectives. To ensure performance management has a clear link to pay as specified in the Pay policy.
Discipline/ Exclusions	 To establish a statement of behaviour principles from which the school can produce a Behaviour policy. To review the use of exclusion and decide whether or not to confirm all permanent exclusions and fixed term exclusions where a pupil is either excluded for more than 15 days in total in a term, or would lose the opportunity to sit a public exam. (This may be delegated to the Chair/Vice Chair in cases of urgency - see Exclusion from maintained schools, Academies and pupil referral units in England Guidance updated Feb 2105 point 54). To direct the reinstatement of excluded pupils.
Premises & Insurance	 To develop a school buildings strategy or master plan and contribute to LA Asset Management Planning arrangements. To procure and maintain buildings, including a properly funded maintenance plan. To seek advice from the LA or trustees, where appropriate to ensure adequate levels of buildings insurance and personal liability. To receive annual site report.
Health & Safety	 To institute a Health & Safety policy To ensure that Health & Safety regulations are followed and appropriately prioritised. To receive an annual Health & Safety inspection report and agree any actions.
Admissions	 To consult annually before setting an Admissions policy. To consider and agree application decisions.
RE and Collective Worship	 To ensure that the school provides teaching of religious education for all pupils in accordance with the agreed syllabus or has informed parents of their right to withdraw their child. To ensure the school provides an act of daily collective worship in accordance with the denominational nature of the school.
School Organisation	 To set the time of the school sessions and the dates of school terms and holidays. To publish proposals to change category of school. To propose to alter or discontinue voluntary, foundation or special school status.
Information for Parents	 To ensure that the school keeps parents and prospective parents informed by publishing school information online and considering the production of a school prospectus. To adopt and review home school agreements.
Federations & Academies	 To consider forming a federation/academy or joining an existing federation/academy To consider requests from other schools to join a federation/academy. To leave a federation/academy.
Extended Services	 To decide to offer additional activities and agree what form these should take. To cease providing extended services provision.

2. Headteacher

Delegation of Functions to Headteacher				
The Headteacher is expected to work within the following terms of reference, and to provide the Governing Body with such reports in connection with his or her functions as the Governing Body requires.				
Budget	 To make miscellaneous financial decisions up to an agreed limit of £5,000 To enter into contracts up to the limit of £5,000 To monitor monthly expenditure. To make payments. 			
Staffing	 To appoint teachers and non-teaching staff. To establish disciplinary, capability and grievance procedures. To suspend staff. To dismiss staff. 			
Curriculum	 To ensure the National Curriculum is taught to all pupils and consider disapplication for pupils as appropriate. To establish and implement a Curriculum policy. To decide which subject options should be taught. To be responsible for standards of teaching. To be responsible for each individual child's education. To agree the content of any Sex and Relationship Education and to keep up-to-date a written policy for its delivery. To ensure the balanced treatment of political issues and to prohibit political indoctrination. To promote British values. 			
Performance Management	To formulate and implement a Performance Management policy which has clear links to the Pay policy.			
Target Setting	To set and monitor progress towards targets for pupil achievement.			
Religious Education	To provide Religious Education to the agreed syllabus.			
Collective worship	To provide collective worship with a broadly Christian character.			
Health & Safety	To ensure that Health & Safety regulations are followed.			
School Organisation	 To ensure that the school meets for 380 sessions in a school year. Where determined by the Governing Body, to ensure that school lunch nutritional standards are met. 			
Information for Parents	 To prepare and publish the School Prospectus, when used. To ensure that free school meals are provided to those pupils meeting the criteria. To ensure that parents are aware of their rights to withdraw their child from collective worship, RE and Sex and Relationship education. To ensure that a report on each child's educational achievement is forwarded to parents /guardians. 			
Extended Schools	 To put into place the additional services provided. To ensure delivery of services provided. 			

3. Individuals or Monitoring Groups

Terms of Reference for Individuals or Monitoring Groups

Any individual or group of individuals to whom responsibility has been delegated is expected to work within the following terms of reference.

To monitor an identified target on the School Plan or a statutory function of the Governing Body and report to the Governing Body. It is expected that a minimum of 3 monitoring visits will be made to the school during the year. Other forms of communication such as telephone calls emails etc. may be substituted for one or more visits. A visit does not necessarily have to take place during the time when students/pupils are in school, and could be just as effective as a meeting between governor(s) and the lead professional at the end of the day as mutually agreed.

- To meet with the lead professional within the school to gain an understanding of the scope of the target and the activities the school is conducting to achieve success.
- To undertake any necessary training (in or out of school) to enable effective monitoring of the areas/subject.
- To monitor the progress of school activities towards the target or duty.
- To evaluate the extent of success at the end of the set timescale.

All visits to the school will be arranged with reference to the Headteacher and in accordance with the Governor Visits policy.

Reports will be submitted for approval by the Headteacher and the Chair within the school within 2 weeks of the visit, and then be lodged with the Clerk of governors for consideration at the next FGB meeting as soon as possible.

Milford School will operate with 3 monitoring groups this year alongside the individual responsibilities:

- 1. Resources Dan Keat (Lead), Helene Goddings, Greg Clements
- 2. Teaching & Learning Emma Hardy (Lead), JH, Helen Szczepanski
- 3. SEND & Safeguarding Mel Isherwood (Lead), Jane Harrap

4. Pay Committee

Terms of Reference for Pay Committee

1. AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

The Pay Committee has delegated authority from the Governing Body to implement the pay policy for the school in accordance with regulations.

2. DUTIES

- To agree, review and implement the pay policy for the school in accordance with regulations.
- To achieve the aims of the whole school pay policy in a fair and equal manner.
- To apply the criteria set by the whole school pay policy in determining the pay of each member of staff at the annual review.
- To observe all statutory and contractual obligations.
- To recommend to the Governing Body the annual budget needed for pay, bearing in mind the need to ensure the availability of monies to support any exercise of discretion.
- To keep abreast of relevant developments and to advise the Governing Body when the school's pay
 policy needs to be revised.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Three governors, to include no more than one governor who currently sits on the Headteacher's performance review panel.

Where the pay committee has invited either a representative of the LA or the external adviser to attend and offer advice on the determination of the head's pay, that person will withdraw at the same time as the head while the committee reaches its decision. Any member of the committee required to withdraw will do so.

4. DISQUALIFICATION

The Headteacher and staff governors.

5. QUORUM

A minimum of two governors.

6. MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet at least once a year at the appropriate time to ensure pay reviews match the school's performance management process.

5. Governor Panel

Terms of Reference for Governor Panel Hearings

1. AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

Panel Hearings have delegated authority from the Governing Body to make decisions under the school's personnel procedures, parental complaints policy and pupil exclusions in accordance with regulations.

2. DUTIES

- To make any decisions under the Governing Body's personnel procedures e.g. disciplinary, grievance, capability, pay, where the Headteacher is the subject of the action.
- To make any decisions under the Governing Body's personnel procedures e.g. disciplinary, grievance, capability, pay, unless delegated to the Headteacher.
- To make any determination or decision under the Governing Body's Complaints Procedure for Parents.
- To consider any appeals against a decision to dismiss a member of staff or to a decision short of dismissal e.g. disciplinary, grievance or capability.
- To make any determinations on behalf of the Governing Body in relation to staff redundancy and redundancy appeals.
- To consider any representations by parents in the case of an exclusion (parents/guardians no not have to be invited).
- To consider the appropriateness of any permanent exclusion or fixed term exclusion which totals 15 days or more in one term or where a pupil is denied the chance to take a public examination (parents/guardians must be invited).
- All panels are to be convened by the Clerk to the Governing Body.

N.B. Any governor who has participated on a panel for a staffing decision, cannot sit on the appeal panel.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Any three governors from a pool of governors who are:

- 1. Suitably qualified to undertake the role, and
- 2. Available on the date specified

This pool may include governors from other local schools.

4. DISQUALIFICATION

The Headteacher is disqualified from serving in this role.

Any governor having a connection with either a pupil, a member of staff or the incident in question which could affect their ability to act impartially should not serve on the panel.

5. QUORUM

A minimum of two governors, at least one of whom must be from Milford school.

6. MEETINGS

As required.

6. Headteacher Performance Management

Terms of Reference of the Headteacher Performance Management Panel

1. AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

The Performance Management Panel has delegated authority from the Governing Body to determine the Headteacher's performance objectives in accordance with regulations.

2. DUTIES

- To meet annually with an independent advisor to discuss and determine the Headteacher performance management objectives for the coming year (the planning meeting).
- To review, with the support of the independent advisor, the performance of the Headteacher against the agreed PM objectives and determine the recommendation on pay progression (the review meeting).
- To prepare and agree the Headteacher appraisal review statement, and report to the Governing Body.
- To monitor through the year the performance of the Headteacher against the agreed objectives and to ensure that appropriate support and development opportunities are provided.
- To make recommendations to the Pay Committee in respect of pay progression.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Any two or three governors from a pool of governors who are:

- 1. Suitably qualified to undertake the role, and
- 2. Available on the dates specified

4. DISQUALIFICATION

The Headteacher and staff governors are disqualified from serving in this role.

5. QUORUM

A minimum of two governors.

6. MEETINGS

At least once a term.

Alternative participation & voting protocol

The Governing Body expects governors to be present in person at all meetings. Where this is not possible it is agreed that members of the Governing Body of Milford School are able to participate and vote virtually at full Governing Body meetings. Virtual participation includes, but is not limited to, telephone, Skype and video conference.

Governors who use these alternative arrangements should:

- under normal circumstances, inform the Clerk to the Governing Body that this is their intention as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours before the meeting is due to take place
- communicate and co-operate with the Clerk to the Governing Body, school or trust as necessary to ensure that the alternative arrangements can be put in place and work well for all concerned
- ensure they have a reliable connection
- ensure they are able to take part through a secure method in an environment conducive to confidential and private communication
- contribute towards a safe and secure environment for the meeting by giving due regard to the school's
 policies relating to data protection and the appropriate use of ICT
- restrict themselves to using the arrangements agreed by the Governing Body
- where there is no visual connection, start their comments by stating their name.
- abide by the normal rules, procedures and code of conduct adopted by the GB and give particular regard to the duty to maintain confidentiality.

Where the Body decides that a meeting should take place using alternative arrangements that have been previously agreed then the following will apply:

- i. There is no limit to the number of governors who may attend virtually for any single meeting.
- ii. The usual (statutory) notice and arrangements for issuing papers, except where the Chairman has exercised their right to waive the usual notice.
- iii. All participants to receive clear instructions regarding how to access the meeting including where they can access support if they experience difficulty.
- iv. All participants will note and follow any instructions given on how to manage their participation at the meeting e.g. confirming attendance, speaking through the Chairman of the meeting, voting on matters
- v. Virtual participation may be limited to the discussion of a single agenda item on which there is a vote.
- vi. The minutes of the meeting will be taken by the Clerk to the governing body and the meeting should *not* be recorded by any governor or the Clerk without the approval of all members of the FGB and only for a specified purpose.
- vii. If the communication connection fails with a governor and reasonable attempts to reconnect are unsuccessful virtual participation will no longer be possible and the agenda will not be delayed; the Clerk will note the time that the connection was lost.
- viii. Quorate meetings are the responsibility of the Clerk who will monitor this throughout meetings involving virtual participation and advise governors if the meeting becomes inquorate.
- ix. If there is to be a vote, by secret ballot, governors participating virtually will not be able to vote.
- x. If there is no visual connection the outcome of any vote taken through a show of hands will be communicated to the individual attending virtually. The virtual attendee will need to cast their vote by stating if they wish to vote in favour or against.

For any formal proceedings, such as staff grievance and discipline, considerations of exclusion, admission or complaints and for any review hearings only physical attendance is acceptable and therefore this protocol will not apply.

Code of Conduct for the Governing Body

Introduction

The following is not a definitive statement of responsibilities but is concerned with the common understanding of broad principles by which the Governing Body and individual governors and associate members will operate.

Our Mission

Milford School is dedicated to providing a safe learning environment where:

- the children enjoy a stable and happy school life
- all members of the school community are safe and valued
- we foster the all round development of each individual
- learning experiences are stimulating and well-resourced
- the children explore their own imaginative play in a safe, diverse environment
- we recruit and retain high quality staff
- strong partnerships between school, home and the local community are maintained.

As governors we are focussed on three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

It is our job to set the school's strategic framework and ensure that it meets all of its statutory duties.

As governors / trustees, we will focus on our strategic functions:

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

As individuals on the board we agree to:

Fulfil our role & responsibilities

- 1. We accept that our role is strategic and so will focus on our core functions rather than involve ourselves in day to day management.
- 2. We will develop, share and live the ethos and values of our school/s.
- 3. We agree to adhere to school/trust policies and procedures as set out by the relevant governing documents and law.
- 4. We will work collectively for the benefit of the school/s.
- 5. We will be candid but constructive and respectful when holding senior leaders to account.
- 6. We will consider how our decisions may affect the school/s and local community.
- 7. We will stand by the decisions that we make as a collective.
- 8. Where decisions and actions conflict with the Seven Principles of Public Life or may place pupils at risk, we will speak up and bring this to the attention of the relevant authorities.
- 9. We will only speak or act on behalf of the board if we have the authority to do so.
- 10. We will fulfil our responsibilities as a good employer, acting fairly and without prejudice.
- 11. When making or responding to complaints we will follow the established procedures.
- 12. We will strive to uphold the school's / trust's reputation in our private communications (including on social media).

Demonstrate our commitment to the role

- 1. We will involve ourselves actively in the work of the board, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, serving on committees or working groups where required.
- 2. We will make every effort to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we

- are unable to.
- 3. We will arrive at meetings prepared, having read all papers in advance, ready to make a positive contribution and observe protocol.
- 4. We will get to know the school/s well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- 5. We will visit the school/s and when doing so will make arrangements with relevant staff in advance and observe school and board protocol.
- 6. When visiting the school in a personal capacity (i.e. as a parent or carer), we will continue to honour the commitments made in this code.
- 7. We will participate in induction training and take responsibility for developing our individual and collective skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis.

Build and maintain relationships

- 1. We will develop effective working relationships with school leaders, staff, parents and other relevant stakeholders from our local community/ communities.
- 2. We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with board members and staff both inside and outside of meetings.
- 3. We will support the chair in their role of leading the board and ensuring appropriate conduct.

Respect confidentiality

- 1. We will observe complete confidentiality both inside and outside of school when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern individual staff, pupils or families.
- 2. We will not reveal the details of any governing board vote.
- 3. We will ensure all confidential papers are held and disposed of appropriately.
- 4. We will maintain confidentiality even after we leave office.

Declare conflicts of interest and be transparent

- 1. We will declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the board's business and these will be recorded in the Register of Business Interests.
- 2. We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise.
- 3. If a conflicted matter arises in a meeting, we will offer to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and any subsequent vote.
- 4. We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the school/trust's website.
- 5. We will act in the best interests of the school/trust as a whole and not as a representative of any group.
- 6. We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the governing board, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school's website.
- 7. We accept that information relating to board members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database of governors (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.

We understand that potential or perceived breaches of this code will be taken seriously and that a breach could lead to formal sanctions.

The Governing Body of Milford School first adopted this Code of Conduct in 2012.

Governors review the Code at the first Governing Body meeting annually, upon significant changes to the law and policy or as needed. Governors will commit to upholding the Code at the first Governing Body meeting of each school year.

Print Name	Signature	Date
Mr Gregory Clement		
Miss Helene Goddings		
Mrs Emma Hardy		

Mrs Jane Harrap		
Mr Daniel Keat		
Mrs Melanie Isherwood		
Mr Andrew Stear		
Mrs Helen Szczepanski		

End