

Governing Body Annual Governance Statement

Howbridge Infant School

September 2025

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Howbridge Infant School Governing Body are:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction;**
2. **Holding the Headteacher 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.**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Howbridge Infant School was re-constituted on 1 January 2015 and is now made up of the Headteacher and 1 Staff Governor; 3 Partnership Governors; 5 elected Parent Governors; 1 Local Authority appointed governor and 4 co-opted governors. The Governing Body appoints co-opted governors, who are people that, in the opinion of the Governing Body, have the required skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

Governors meet twice a term to discuss Finance, Premises, HR and Curriculum matters.

A full list of Governors and their responsibilities can be found on the webpage.

Attendance record of governors

Most Governors attend all meetings. Governors are encouraged to visit the school every half term.

The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body

The Governing Body discusses key performance data so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its targets for all pupils. We focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant and Sport Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on the pupil outcomes. The results of which are published on the school website <http://www.howbridge-inf.essex.sch.uk> . We also look at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and make recommendations about how the school budget should be set.

In the spring term, the Full Governing Body approved the 2024/25 budget plan for the school: we are pleased to confirm that the school has a contingency fund that is managed & reviewed by the Governing Body.

The priority of our budget is focused on the standards & excellence of teaching. The Full Governing Body is responsible for the renewal of our policies & procedures. We have updated in accordance with

	new legislation various policies. These can be seen on the school website.
Current priorities and activity	For pupils in Reception, the focus is on the prime areas of learning, including communication and language; personal, social and emotional development (PSED); and physical development. We will focus on early reading and maths, particularly children's acquisition of phonic knowledge and vocabulary. The revised statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework is in place and the Reception Baseline Assessment has been completed. For pupils in Key Stage One the priorities are to ensure good progress in phonics and reading, writing and maths. There is also a focus on emotional health and mental well-being. We will also identify opportunities across the curriculum so that children read widely and develop their knowledge and vocabulary. We will ensure that children have a broad range of experiences across the whole curriculum and have engaged Drama, Sports Specialists, and a mindfulness coach to support this. We want to ensure that our children with special needs are well supported and make good progress with their learning, personal development and social development. Early identification is essential and staff will contact parents regarding any concerns in a timely way. Any additional support will be implemented and your child's progress will be closely monitored. Further detailed information can be found in our SEND Information Report on the school website. Governors focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant and Sports Funding is being spent by the school and what impact this has on pupil outcomes. The PPG strategy is published on the school website. There is a Governor responsible for Health and Safety and termly inspections are carried out with the School Business Manager. Safeguarding is of great importance and we have a nominated Governor for Safeguarding who reports back to the Governing Body about Safeguarding issues. Governors undertake Safeguarding training every year. One of the roles for the Governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have considered a number of key policies. Minutes of the Governing Body are public documents, you can ask at the school office if you would like to see minutes of our meetings.

Future plans for the governors	The Governing Body has prepared a Governor Action Plan which reflects the school priorities as set out in the School Improvement Plan for 2025/26. The plan highlights key areas of activity that the Governing Body will focus on in order to ensure we are monitoring in relation to our core strategic functions. Governor visits are scheduled throughout the year.
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact our Chair of Governors, Mrs Louise Cobb, via the school office. A full list of governors and more information about the school can be found at http://www.howbridge-inf.essex.sch.uk/