ROBERTSWOOD SCHOOL
Governors report 2025-2026

SCHOOL VISION

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

We are committed to providing an outstanding education within a secure and happy environment, where each child is valued and equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to become caring, confident and successful individuals.

As the Governing Board of Robertswood School, we are proud of the school and its welcoming, inclusive, ethos. In accordance with the Government's requirements for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Governing Board are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos 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

In the 2025-2026 year we have seen progress in some important projects.

Governance Structure

The Governing Board is made up of 16 governor roles as follows:

- 2 Parent Governors appointed by ballot of the parents at the school.
- 1 Local Authority Governor appointed by the Local Authority (currently vacant)
- 1 Staff Governor appointed by ballot of the staff (currently vacant)
- 11 Co-Opted Governors appointed by the Governing Board based on skills audit (currently 3 vacancies)
- 1 Headteacher

The Governing Board used a professional Clerking service. The clerk is responsible for arranging meetings and taking minutes. The Clerk also advices on procedural matters and plays a key role in the work of the Governing Board.

Governors are all appointed (except the Headteacher) are independent and have equal status to each other. 2025-2026 Co-Chairs were Carys Moore-Saxton and Sally Parkin with Michelle Brooks as Vice-Chair. For 2026-2027 Co- Chairs are Carys Moore-Saxton and Michelle Brooks with Sally Parkin as Vice-Chair. All are elected by the Governing Board and work closely together with the Headteacher and the Clerk.

During the school year 2025-2026, the Governing Board had 4 sub-committees: The Curriculum Committee, The Finance and Premises Committee (F&P) the Staffing Committee and the Pay Committee. The Curriculum and F&P Committees meet once per term, Staffing Committee twice per year and the Pay Committee annually.

Governors are assigned link roles so we can ensure there is a focus on important areas. These link roles include Safeguarding, SEND, equalities, pupil premium, health & safety and Data

Protection as well as key curriculum areas. Governors with link roles complete visits to the school to monitor these key areas. Governors also approve the School Improvement Plan each year. Formal monitoring visits allow governors the opportunity to observe and communicate with staff and pupils and ensure that actions agreed in the School Improvement plan are being actively undertaken by the school. After each visit, a formal report is prepared and presented at the next Governing Board meeting. From this the progress in the delivery of the agreed school priority areas can be actively monitored and the impact on the education of the pupils more effectively assessed. During 2025 – 2026 the Full Governing Board met 5 times, the Curriculum committee and Staffing committee met twice, the F&P met three times and Pay Committee once. Full Governing Board meetings are usually face to face, while committee meetings are held virtually.

Governors also visited informally supporting school events such as the School Summer Fair and Assemblies.

The Co-Chair of Governors have regular meetings with the Headteacher outside of the Full Governing Board meetings.

The overall attendance record of Governors has been good, and every meeting has been quorate during the school year. Details of the attendance of school governors are published on the school website.

The Headteacher's Performance Management is supported by an external advisor. The Governing Board and the committees all have clear terms of reference, and all Governors are required to abide by a Code of Conduct.

Governing Board Skills and Knowledge Development

The Governing Board recognises that to effectively fulfil its role, it must ensure that all of its Governors have the required skills and knowledge to support the achievement of the school's priority objectives. Regular skills/effectiveness audits are undertaken to identify and address any skills gaps together with a self-evaluation of the effectiveness of the Governing Board over the school year. The Governing Board receives support from Buckinghamshire Governor Services, including termly Governor Briefings.

Governor Focus in Academic Year 2025-2026

At the beginning of the school year, the Governing Board agreed a School Improvement Plan with the Headteacher. This annual planning document is used to identify the key areas on which the school and the Governing Board wish to focus during the academic year and include proposed action as well as measurable outcomes so that the Governing Board can monitor whether action is on track and evaluate its effectiveness.

2025-2026's School improvement plan targeted: Phonics, Early Reading, Maths, Attendance and Behaviour; Personal Development and well-being, Early Years Provision as well as Leadership and governance

In addition to school monitoring visits, the Governing Board uses other school data including, SATS results, Local Authority data, government data (Analyse School Performance) Phonics Screening Check, Baseline Assessment, the Ofsted Data Dashboard and regular internal school assessment data. Pupil progress and attainment is scrutinised through data analysis.

Vulnerable groups including Pupil Premium and SEND children are closely monitored. During the 2025-2026 academic year the Governing Board continued to monitor school finances closely. Careful management of the finances over several years of decreasing real-terms funding led to a stable financial year this year but Governors will continue to focus on financial planning over future years given the changes in energy pricing and the wider economy.

Governor focus areas for 2026- 2027

This year, the Governing Board will agree a new School Improvement Plan with the school highlighting new key areas of focus. This will include a focus on SEND needs and provision in the school. They will also continue to help set the longer-term strategy of the school, to closely monitor financial status and to work closely with the Headteacher, School Leadership Team (SLT) staff and parent communities to deliver the best outcomes for our pupils.

The Governing Board will approve the new School Improvement Plan early in the Autumn term.