



Governance Arrangements at Godinton Primary School

The Governing Body at Godinton Primary School is made up of volunteers who work in partnership with the headteacher to ensure that its pupils receive a fully rounded education, which sees them happy and confident, and provides them with the opportunity to achieve their full potential wherever their strengths and skills may lie.

The role of a school Governor at Godinton Primary School is to provide:

- strategic leadership
- accountability and assurance
- strategic engagement

The board has collective accountability and strategic responsibility for the school. It has a focus on ensuring the school delivers an excellent education to pupils while maintaining effective financial management and must ensure compliance with:

- the Academy Trusts charitable objects
- regulatory, contractual and statutory requirements
- their funding agreement

The board also has:

- strategic and statutory responsibility for safeguarding and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) arrangements within (and across) the academy trust ensuring the promotion of pupil welfare and for keeping their estates safe and well-maintained
- a role in making sure that it delivers its commitment to other schools and academies, however it is done

The Governing Body operates under the pyramid model of governance whose structure allows assurance of agreed processes and enables a strong strategic focus.

Because Godinton Primary School is an Academy there is an additional tier that sits above the pyramid. This tier is made up of **'Members'** who are guardians of the governance of the Academy Trust.

The role of the members is to :

- hold the **Governing Body** to account for the effective governance of the Academy Trust and ensure the **Governors** are carrying out their role effectively,
- appoint and remove **Members** and **Governors**,
- appoint and remove the auditors,
- receive a copy of the annual report and audited accounts,
- approve changes to the articles of association.

For a list of current **Members** please refer to the document '*governors-list-business-interest-and-responsibilities (2)*' which can be found on the **Governance** page on the school website.

The Pyramid Model :

- At the point of the pyramid are the schools **Senior Leadership Team** made up of the **Headteacher**, two **Assistant Headteachers** and the **School Business Manager**. They are responsible for the day to day management of the school and lead on all aspects of teaching and learning.
- The middle of the pyramid is made up of the **Strategy Group** of the **Governing Body** whose members are taken from the **Senior Leadership Team** and the **Governing Body**. The **Headteacher** and one of the **Assistant Headteachers** represent the **Senior Leadership Team** and the **Chair and Vice Chair of Governors**, plus one annually elected governor, represents the **Governing Body**. The role of the **Strategy Group** is to set and lead the strategic direction of the school. In fulfilling their role the **Group** also focusses on school policies and has finance as a standing agenda item at its meetings.
- At the base sits the **Governing Body**, the foundation of the pyramid. The **Board of Governors** is responsible for ensuring the success of the school in terms of educational achievement and financial accountability. Although some of its functions are delegated to the **Headteacher** and the **Strategy Group** both report to the **Board of Governors** to allow the **Board** to fulfil its obligations to the school and its stakeholders.

The **Governing Body** is made up of 12 governors supported by a governance professional who is not a governor. There are different types of governor although their role is the same. The **Godinton Primary School Governing Body** includes :

- the **Headteacher**,
- 1 x **Staff Governor** (**Staff governors** are elected by the staff of **Godinton Primary school** and serve a term of 4 years),
- 3 x **Parent Governors** (**Parent governors** are elected by the parents of children attending **Godinton Primary school** and serve a term of 4 years),
- 6 x **Member Appointed Governors**. (**Member Appointed Governors** are individuals appointed by the **Academies Members** The appointments are made from people in the community who express an interest in the education of children at **Godinton Primary School** and whose skills meet the needs of the role). **Member appointed Governors** serve a term of 4 years,
- 1 x **Co-opted Governor** (**Co-opted governors** are individuals appointed by the **Academies Governors** who are not themselves co-opted governors. The appointments are made from people in the community who express an interest in the education of children at **Godinton Primary School** and whose skills meet the needs of the role). **Co-opted Governors** serve a term of 4 years.

Governors are allocated specific tasks annually which they manage alongside the general requirements of the role. The tasks are as link **Governor** for a key area (i.e. **Safeguarding, SEND and Health and Safety**) or as part of a monitoring pair of **Governors**. The main monitoring focus for the monitoring pairs is linked to sections of the **School Improvement Plan (SIP)**, but one pair is appointed as the **Finance Monitoring Pair** to monitor the schools budget and finance procedures along with maintaining oversight of internal scrutiny and meeting the audit requirements in line with the **Academy Trust Handbook**.

At **Godinton Primary School** there is a strong senior leadership team supported by good and dedicated staff, which makes it easy to fulfil the role of a school **Governor** and allows all parties to work in partnership to provide the best teaching and learning environment for the school community. The **Governing Body** is hard-working and committed, led by a very passionate **Chair of Governors**, which allows the governor team to share their wide range of skills while working with the senior

leadership team to ensure the smooth running and future successes of the school and take pride in the schools many achievements.

For a list of current **G**overnors including a list of the tasks allocated to them, their business interests and a record of their attendance at meetings please refer to the document '*governors-list-business-interest-and-responsibilities (2)*' which can be found on the **G**overnance page on the school website.