

Governance Statement – Grove School, 2025-2026

Our school vision is: Enjoy, learn, achieve

Our Grove Expectations are:

- We are kind and don't hurt others or their feelings
- We respect all property
- We always try to do our best
- We are honest and tell the truth
- We are good listeners and thoughtful speakers
- We always treat others as we would want to be treated

We expect all pupils, staff, parents, governors and visitors to follow these expectations.

Our school's aim is:

- To develop character, critical thinking and leadership skills in every child.
- To find out and nurture the talent of each child as they journey through our school.

Education is not only about what takes place in school but is about preparing children for life in the 21st century

We as the Governing Body of Grove School support the school in achieving this vision, the expectations and the aims.

The core functions of our School's Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent;
- Ensuring the voices of the Stakeholders (i.e. Parents, Pupils, Staff and the Local Community) are heard.

The day-to-day management of the school remains the responsibility of the Headteacher and Senior Leadership team.

The structure of our Governing Body

Our governing body consists of 10 members, including the Head Teacher, 1 Staff Governor, 2 parent Governors, 1 Local authority Governor and 6 Co-opted Governors.

The parent and staff Governors are elected by parents and the staff community whereas the other Governors are appointed by the Governing Body.

All Governors voluntarily give their time and receive regular training to fulfil their role appropriately. Governors are appointed to reflect the relevant skills and expertise needed to support the school in its development within its statutory and legal expectations.

Our Governing Board has two permanent committees which are:

- Performance, Standards and Safeguarding
- Finance, Staffing and Premises

Governors can also be asked to join temporary committees/panels as required, such as recruiting senior positions, dealing with complaints and pupil exclusions.

The names of the Governors, their meeting attendance record, their declaration of interests and the committees they are appointed to are all on the school website.

The work we do as Governors

Our work as Governors of Grove School fulfils our core functions and enables our school to achieve our vision and implement our aims and values.

Both the full governing body and the two committees meet each term.

As Governors, we are responsible for: the school premises; admissions; staffing and performance management; health and safety; curriculum; children with SEND; safeguarding and pupil welfare; equality; data protection; policies; complaints; exclusions; and finance. We have strategic oversight of these areas, but the day-to-day running of the school is carried out by the Headteacher. To fulfil our strategic duties, we hold leaders to account through our scrutiny and questioning of the reports provided at full Governing Body and committee meetings.

All our Governors are linked to a specific area of the school curriculum or school life, and visits to the school give us a deeper understanding of the work of the school. We make regular visits to the school. We provide written reports of our visits to the senior leadership team and Governing Board.

In our meetings we approve and review policies and major expenditure. We have been involved in the recruitment of senior staff. We manage the performance of the Headteacher. We also hold the Headteacher and all leaders to account to ensure all pupils achieve their absolute best in all subjects and aspects of school life. We do

this by our scrutiny and questioning of all reports from senior leaders, curriculum leaders, the site management team and the finance team.

The governing body review the views of the stakeholders through the questionnaire completed by pupils, parents and staff, all of which have been extremely positive.

Priorities achieved for 2024-2025

The Governing Body had three main priorities, which are below. Within each priority there were actions that were taken to achieve them.

Priority 1

To maintain and sustain the passion for learning and teaching of both pupils and staff so that all pupils are prepared for life in the 21st century.

The Governing Body supported leaders to develop:

The children's understanding of the impressions they have of the characters they read about and be able to give evidence for their opinions.

Actions:
• A drama consultant worked alongside teachers in KS1 and KS2 and supported the pupils understanding of character development and motivation. • Evidential Reading- The pupils have been supported by teachers to provide evidence to support the understanding of the characters they are studying in their reading curriculum. • The Welsh Opera worked alongside pupils and staff in KS2 to get a gain a deeper understanding of characters development through music
Achieved

The children's ability to effectively proof-read and edit their writing.

Actions:
Pupils were encouraged by staff through peer support to proof read and edit their own and their and each other's writing.
Achieved

To continue to make progress as we enter the developing year in Maths Mastery.

Actions:
The developing year was a success and the school is now moving into the next phase.
Achieved

Priority 2

Build a culture that everyone understands they have a leadership role to play in the school; all staff and pupils.

The Governing Body supported leaders to develop:

The establishment of the Grove School bank.

Actions:
The Grove School Bank has been a success and pupils have eagerly looked forward to spending coins they have earned through attendance, positive behaviour and following Grove expectations. This initiative has allowed the pupils to develop a financial understanding and reinforcing their positive behaviour with a reward system.
Achieved

The expansion and development of the leadership roles for pupils in school.

Actions:
The leadership roles created for the pupils this year have been: • Eco Rangers and Attendance Ambassadors • The governors, through school visits, spoke to the newly elected leaders who were enjoying their new responsibility and felt that they had even more that they could offer.
Achieved

Curriculum leaders monitoring and reviewing of the impact of their curriculum area every term.

Actions:
• The experienced curriculum leaders have invited colleagues into their classes to observe them teaching their subject in open lessons so they can improve and develop their own teaching of that subject. • Curriculum leaders that have been new to post have been mentored and coached by more experienced curriculum leaders.
Achieved

Priority 3

To support and develop the physical, social and emotional well-being of the whole school community.

The Governing Body supported leaders to develop:

The launch of My Happy Minds for all pupils and evaluate the impact of this programme through pupil voice.

Actions:
Thorough school visits, the governors spoke to the newly elected leaders who were enjoying their responsibility and felt that they had even more that they could offer. We have established that this programme has had an extremely beneficial effect on the pupils throughout the school. Grove is now into the second year of implementing and introducing Happy Minds to the pupils and we have successfully achieved the silver award.
Achieved

Continued engagement with the Attendance Hub to share information about new and different initiatives to address absence and improve attendance.

Actions:
• The school successfully engaged with the Attendance Hub and shared good practice of other schools. • The attendance policy has been updated and attendance has been monitored daily. • Workshops on attendance have been delivered by the family support worker and the incentives to improve pupils' attendance have been further developed • Implementation of Beacon School's parenting support programme for target parents.
Achieved

Maintenance and Development of the Building

Actions:
• Upgrade of the heating in upper school will be taking place over the summer holidays • Fire doors were inspected and replaced where necessary throughout the school • A complete IT System upgrade took place.
Achieved

Governors continue to be proactive in their role through link governor visits which provides them with a deeper insight into the work of the school. We are a smaller but highly effective Governing Body; the work of the board was reflected in our OFSTED report.

Priorities for 2025 – 2026

Priority 1

To maintain and sustain the passion for learning and teaching of both pupils and staff so that all pupils are prepared for life in the 21st century.

The Governing Body will support leaders to develop:

- Oracy-Voice 21 whole school oracy project
- Reading: Non-fiction curriculum – write it, train teachers on its use, monitor the implementation, monitor impact
- Writing: letter formation and handwriting (whole school), writing taught not caught in reception, consistency in teaching audience, purpose and voice (KS 1 and lower KS 2). Teachers to make better use of the writer's craft approach to teaching grammar and punctuation
- Maths: Implement and monitor the impact of Maths No Problem – whole school

Priority 2

Build a culture that everyone understands they have a leadership role to play in the school; all staff and pupils.

The Governing Body will support leaders to develop:

Year 4 buddy readers for reception pupils with a focus on boys who are falling behind

Year 6 buddy readers for year 2 pupils with a focus on boys who are falling behind

Subject leadership training for curriculum leaders through Birmingham Education Partnership

Priority 3

To support and develop the physical, social and emotional well-being of the whole school community.

The Governing Body will support leaders to develop:

The OFSTED 'Belonging' expectation, ensuring that all pupils—particularly those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged, EAL or SEND—feel connected, valued, safe and included in school life; and to ensure that Grove meets the strong standard for belonging as defined by Ofsted.

Attendance

Our school attendance for 2024 – 2025 was 94%.

After-school Clubs

Since the start of September 2024, 978 places have been created for pupils to benefit from joining clubs; all the after-school clubs are free to attend. The interests and talents of pupils are fostered and encouraged.

Clubs have included:

Jumping Beans	Spanish
Reception Grove Groovers	Grove Bank
Year 1 Grove Groovers	Board Games
Dance	Funky Fingers
Netball	Gardening
Badminton	Maths
Cricket	Phonics
Football	Times Table Rockstars
Tennis	Numbots
Archery	Choir
Trampolining	Guitar
Gymnastics	Ukulele
Construction	Sketching
Arts and Crafts	Origami
Crochet	Baking
Library	Performing Arts
Story time	

Attendance Record and Recruitment of Governors

Governing Body meetings are well attended which enables the business of the Governing body to run smoothly and effectively.

How you can contact us

We are always happy to hear from our parents and staff members and if you wish to get in touch with us then please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Kamran Arshad, via the school office.

If any parent or local community person is interested in joining the Governing Body or would like more information about the Governing Body, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.