

Governance Statement – Blofield Primary School Governing Body

The Governing Body has a general overall responsibility for the effective management of the school, acting within the framework set out by national legislation and with due consideration to the adopted powers of the Local Authority.

The Government requires all school governing bodies to have three strategic core functions.

Core Functions

The role of the Governing Body is to provide strategic leadership and accountability within the three primary functions :-

- Hold school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure that public money is well spent
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

The Board of Governors – September 2024 to August 2025

Name	Type of Governor	Term of Office Appointed	Term of Office Expires / Expired
Current Members			
Mrs Teresa Doggett	Headteacher		31/08/2025
Mrs Sarah Barber	Co-Opted	09/10/2023	08/10/2027
Miss Abby Srokowski	Staff	09/10/2023	08/10/2027
Mr Ken D’Rosario	Co-Opted	01/04/2023 *	31/03/2027
Mr Paul Culley-Barber	Local Authority	12/09/2022 *	11/09/2026
Mrs Claire Petley	Co-Opted	10/10/2022 *	09/10/2026
Mr Jack Bower	Co-Opted	24/03/2025	23/09/2029
Mrs Frances Powell	Co-Opted	27/03/2023	26/03/2027
Mr James Barker	Co-Opted	21/05/2022 *	20/05/2026
Mrs Julie Reynolds	Co-Opted	07/07/2025	06/07/2029
Mrs Rachael Spaans	Parent	24/10/2024	23/10/2028
Mrs Paula Myhill	Parent	19/06/2024	18/06/2028
Mr Ashley Brumpton	Parent	29/11/2024	28/11/2028
Historical Members			
Mr Simon McDougall	Co-Opted	01/04/2023 *	31/07/2025
Mrs Kiran Gill	Parent	19/06/2024	24/03/2025
Mr Jacob Merrill	Parent	09/10/2023	23/02/2025

*2nd or more term of office

Mrs Barber is also a member of staff as Deputy Head.

All Governors have taken on the role voluntarily and share the same passion in that we want to see the children of Blofield Primary excel and have a love of learning, are happy and safe and enjoy their time at the school.

Governors are supported by a Governance Professional (Helen Paterson), contracted through Norfolk County Council, who provides advice and guidance on governance, constitutional, administrative and procedural matters to ensure the Governing Body meets its statutory requirements.

Contact: helen.paterson@norfolk.gov.uk

Governance Arrangements, Remit of Committees and Link Governors

The Governing Body is made up of the members named above. This constitutes the full governing body who meet every half term.

Our governance structure is as follows:-

Finance & Premises Committee.

Personnel & Exclusions Committee.

New School Working Party.

Link Governors.

Finance & Premises Committee

The Finance & Premises committee meets four times a year to discuss matters of a financial nature, primarily actions around the setting of the new school budget and subsequent budget revisions during the financial year. This provides governors with an opportunity to challenge and question spending matters, and to discuss potential concerns highlighted in the school's three year financial plan. The meetings are scheduled to occur before the full governing body meeting, enabling the committee chair to report back on matters discussed.

In addition, the committee will ensure that certain reports and returns are submitted to the local authority.

The premises element covers an annual inspection of the school building and grounds, listing items of concern to be followed up and remediated by either the school caretaker or quotations obtained from contractors for larger pieces of work.

Personnel & Exclusions Committee

The Personnel & Exclusions Committee meets on an ad-hoc basis when there is a need to discuss staffing matters or if an exclusion needs to be taken further. Decisions from the Personnel element of this committee are ratified by the Finance & Premises Committee where there is a financial implication.

Members from the Personnel Committee are involved in recruitment matters, having had Safer Recruitment training.

New School Working Party

The new school working party primarily consists of the Headteacher, School Secretary, Chair and Vice Chair of Governors. We meet regularly with the Transition Board and monthly new school site meetings to share updates from those respective meetings with the Governing Body.

Link Governors

To help the full governing body have a broad and balanced view of the various aspects of school life, we have a number of link governors who oversee and promote specific aspects of the school's work e.g attendance, safeguarding, SEND and individual subject areas. This oversight is achieved through meetings with staff, observational visits to school and discussions with fellow governors. Training is undertaken to assist governors in this role.

For more information about the Terms of Reference for the committees and link governors please refer to the overall Governing Body Terms of Reference document on the school website.

Governor Attendance Record 2024 - 2025

Y = Attended, N = Apologies Accepted, NA = Apologies not Accepted, NS = No Apologies sent, ? = Attendance Not Marked, Blank = Not Required

Governor	Governor Type	16 th September 2024 FGB 0 – Admin Meeting	7 th October 2024 FGB 1	13 th November 2024 Extraordinary FGB	2 nd December 2024 FGB 2	3 rd February 2025 FGB 3	24 th March 2025 FGB 4	19 th May 2025 FGB 5	7 th July 2025 FGB 6
Mrs Teresa Doggett	Headteacher	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mrs Sarah Barber	Co-Opted	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
Miss Abby Srokowski	Staff	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mr Ken D’Rosario	Co-Opted	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mr Paul Culley-Barber	Local Authority	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Mr Simon McDougall	Co-Opted	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mrs Claire Petley	Co-Opted	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mr Jack Bower	Co-Opted							Y	Y
Mrs Frances Powell	Co-Opted	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Mr James Barker	Co-Opted	NS	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Mrs Julie Reynolds	Co-Opted								Y
Mrs Rachael Spaans	Parent			Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Mrs Paula Myhill	Parent	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Mr Ashley Brumpton	Parent				Y	Y	Y	N	N
Mrs Kiran Gill	Parent	NS	Y	Y	N	N			
Mr Jacob Merrill	Parent	Y	NS	N	Y	Y			

Chairs Statement

This has been an unprecedented year for the Governors, Staff and Children of Blofield Primary School.

Governors continue to support and challenge the school leadership team thereby fulfilling our role and statutory requirements.

Our focus remains being committed to improving outcomes for all children by delivering high quality teaching and maximising progress and attainment, consistent with the Blofield School Values of Kindness, Respect and being Aspirational.

In addition to our role as a critical friend to challenge and support the senior leadership team we have also played an instrumental role with some fundamental changes impacting the school involving several goodbyes and many hellos.

At the end of the Summer term, we celebrated nine years of unwavering commitment of a truly dedicated head teacher, Mrs Doggett. Throughout Mrs Doggett's time with us, her passion for nurturing young minds had left an indelible mark on our community. It was a bittersweet moment to say farewell as we wished her happiness, health, adventures and joy with her well-deserved retirement.

As we say goodbye to one head teacher, we said a warm hello and welcome to the Blofield School family for our new head, Mrs Buxton. She brings a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and a genuine passion for education, children and families. We know she will inspire both staff and pupils alike as we begin this exciting new chapter together.

In April, we said goodbye to the beloved Victorian school building. It was given a fantastic send off by past pupils, teachers and the wider school community who came for the open day on 22nd March, a fantastically organised event, driven by Mrs D'Rosario, for a trip down memory lane for so many who had come from afar simply to reminisce and say goodbye.

Our thanks go to the staff and children who made the day so memorable.

As the gates were closed for the final time at the old school, the Easter holiday saw a frenetic time to pack EVERYTHING needed ready to be moved to the new building. This was a period of mixed emotions – sadness to leave the old school behind and excitement for the potential of what could be at the new school. Our thanks go to the staff, volunteers and parents who were involved with making the move as seamless as possible. It was an enormous undertaking but I hope you all agree the new school building is a wonderful environment for the children.

As with all new buildings there are snags and hiccups, the biggest one being the field at the new school. Work commenced shortly after moving in day to install additional drainage which facilitated spreading of top soil and grass seeding. It is hoped, that with a fair wind and favourable growing conditions that the new field will be matured enough to use later this year.

Finally, this is my last statement as chair of governors. It has been an absolute honour and pleasure to have been chair for the past four years. Thank you for all the support and guidance I have had from my fellow governors over the years. I must say a special thank you to our outgoing vice chair, Simon McDougall for your sage wisdom and direction over my tenure. I could not have done this without you. Thank you Simon.

I wish all the staff, children and fellow governors all the very best as you embark on a new chapter in the story of Blofield Primary School.