

Statutory

Standing Order

Purley C of E Primary School

Date of policy: September 2018

Review Cycle: Annual

Reviewed By: Full Governing Body 26th September 2024

Approved By: Full Governing Body: 26th September 2024

Last Reviewed: Autumn 2025

Next review date: Autumn 2026

Learn to love, love to learn



"Let all that you do be done in love", 1 Corinthians 16:14

<i>Changes</i>	<i>Approved Date</i>
Adopted by the full governing board	26/9/2018
Governor skills amended in FGB meeting	24/4/2019
Additional updates made to reflect the new structure of the Governing Board, adding the FGB dates for this year and adding Chair/Vice Chair end of term office date choice in FGB meeting.	22/1/2020
Update to include the reapplication of DBS/128 Checks as agreed in FGB meeting 13/02/2020 and to add information on confidentiality in a virtual meeting environment.	20/05/2020
Updates to FGB dates and change the number of times the FGB meet from 12 to 11, Chair end date, deciding on a method for elections, moving our committees to working parties.	16/09/2020
Working parties names updated to reflect agreed working party names.	23/06/2021
New meeting dates for 2021 – 2022 added	23/09/2021
Updates to election dates and governor roles	14/07/2022
Amended dates and committees	29/10/2022
Amended dates and committees	12/09/2023
Amended dates and committees	13/09/24
Amended dates and committees	04/09/25

The Governing Board of Purley CofE England Primary School

These Standing Orders are established in accordance with the School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013, the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Governance handbook for academies, multi-academy trusts and maintained schools March 2019

Related documents:

- Instrument of Government
- Membership list of current governors
- 2509 ToR Business Committee
- 2509 ToR Learning & Teaching Committee
- 2509 ToR Ethos and Wellbeing Committee
- 2509 ToR Pay and Performance Committee
- Register of Business Interests
- Governors' Allowances Policy
- Scheme of Delegation
- School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013
- School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012
- The latest version of the Governance Handbook
- Recording Governing Body Meetings Procedure 2025
- Virtual Meeting Policy 2025

** Text in italic type denotes recommended practice, not statutory requirement.*

Meetings of the Governing board

The full governing board (FGB) will meet 5 times in each school year.

(Note: the FGB is legally required to meet at least three times in each school year).

All meetings will be held on the dates below at the school at 18:00pm at Purley Primary School, unless otherwise noted.

FGB 1 Thursday 18th September 2025

FGB 2 Thursday 11th December 2025

FGB 3 Thursday 12th February 2026

FGB 4 Thursday 23rd April 2026 – including budget ratification

FGB 5 Thursday 9th July 2026

Convening the Meetings

All meetings will be convened by the clerk, in accordance with the arrangements made by the governing board, but subject to (a) any direction from the Chair where the matter is urgent and (b) any requisition signed by three governors.

Notice of Meetings

Written notice of meetings, together with the agenda and all associated documents, will be sent so as to arrive seven clear days before the meeting – except where the chair calls an urgent meeting at short

notice – to (a) each governor, (b) the head teacher (whether or not that person is a governor), and (c) any associate member.

If any person has not received the notice of the meeting, the meeting is not invalidated.

Attendance

The clerk will keep a record of those governors and all other persons present at meetings of the governing board and any of its committees.

The following persons have the right to attend any meeting of the governing board:

- a governor;
- the head teacher of the school, whether or not that person is a governor;
- an associate member; and
- such other persons as the governing board may determine.

Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of the governing board and for any vote on any matter at such a meeting is one half (rounded up to a whole number) of the governors in post. In calculating the quorum vacant positions on the governing board are not included. In calculating the quorum associate members are not counted. Meetings which become inquorate will be discontinued.

Alternative arrangements for governor participation at meetings

The governing board, if it so wishes, may approve alternative arrangements for governors to participate or vote at meetings, for instance, by telephone or video conference.

The governing body resolves that governors may participate and vote at meetings by telephone or video conference as appropriate when arranged in advance of the meeting. Please see the current **Virtual Meeting Policy** for more information.

Decision-making

Members of the governing board recognise that all decisions must be made by the governing board unless the governing board has delegated the function to a committee or individual.

Every question to be decided at a meeting of the governing board is to be determined by a majority of votes of the governors present and voting on the question; proxy voting is not allowed; voting by email is not allowed. Voting by telephone or video conferencing is only permitted where the governing board have adopted alternative arrangements for governor participation as set out above.

Where there is an equal division of votes the chair (or the person acting as chair for the meeting) has a second or casting vote.

Withdrawal from meetings

Governors will be required to withdraw from a meeting under the circumstances set out in Regulation 16 of the School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013. If there is a dispute about a person attending a governing board meeting being required to withdraw, the matter of withdrawal shall be determined by the governors present at the meeting.

Minutes of meetings

The clerk must ensure that minutes of the governing board meeting are drawn up and signed (subject to the approval of the governing board) by the chair at the next meeting.

Copies of the signed minutes of the meetings are kept on Governor Hub in the appropriate folder.

*** Within 10 school days of the meeting, the clerk will forward the draft minutes to the chair for checking, and to the head teacher. Copies of the draft minutes, once checked by the chair, will be sent to all members of the governing board within 20 school days of the meeting.**

Clerk to the governing board

The governing board must appoint a clerk to governors and must have regard to advice from the clerk as to the nature of the governing board's functions. Governors and the head teacher cannot be clerk to the governing board. If the clerk is not able to attend a meeting the governors present at the meeting can appoint a member of the governing board (but not the head teacher) to act as clerk for that meeting.

Election of the chair and vice-chair

The governing board must elect a chair and a vice-chair. When the position of chair or vice-chair falls vacant the governing board must elect a new chair or vice-chair at the next full governing board meeting. Before an election takes place the full governing board must decide the date on which the term of office of the chair or vice chair will end. The clerk will take the chair when the chair is being elected. Governors who work at the school and associate members cannot stand for election as chair or vice-chair.

In the meeting minutes of 27/06/2022, this Governing Body resolves that the Chair of Governors will

- (a) Require an annual election every July to assume post from 1st September;
- (b) Any eligible governor is able to hold the role of Chair or Vice Chair of Governors for no more than 4 years during their tenure as governor at Purley CofE Primary;
- (c) The period of office not exceeding 4 years can be continuous or discrete;
- (d) Facilitate a handover prior to the 1st September, to ensure incoming officers are aware of any appropriate or sensitive information with regard to ongoing matters;
- (e) Facilitate a start of business/ handover meeting with the Headteacher, prior to the September FGB.

In the meeting minutes of 27/06/2022, this Governing Body resolves that the Vice Chair of Governors will

- (a) Require an annual election every July to assume post from 1st September;
- (b) Any eligible governor is able to hold the role of Chair or Vice Chair of Governors for no more than 4 years during their tenure as governor at Purley CofE Primary;
- (c) The period of office not exceeding 4 years can be continuous or discrete;
- (d) There is no requirement that a Vice Chair become a Chair of Governors, although there are benefits in such progression;
- (e) Facilitate a handover prior to the 1st September, to ensure incoming officers are aware of any appropriate or sensitive information with regard to ongoing matters;
- (f) Facilitate a start of business/ handover meeting with the Headteacher, prior to the September FGB.

This Governing Body resolves that the following process will apply to the election of Chair and Vice-Chair:

Governors will be able to submit written nominations prior to the full governing body and verbal nominations at the meeting. A Governor can nominate him/herself for office and does not need to be present at the meeting to be considered.

Nominee(s) will be asked to leave the room whilst the election process takes place.

If there is more than one nominee, the remaining governors will take a vote by a secret ballot. Please note that if a secret ballot is agreed, the clerk will tally the votes.

The nominee(s) will return to the meeting.

The clerk will announce the result, with the nominee polling the majority of votes being duly elected.

If there is a tie, each candidate will be given the opportunity to speak to the governors about their nomination and a further vote will be taken.

If there is still a tie, governors should discuss the strengths of the nominees further, and another vote will be taken. This process will repeat until a nominee polls a majority of the votes.

DBS and 128 Checks

When a Governor is appointed or elected onto the Purley Governing Board, they must by law complete a DBS Check. A 128 check is also completed at the same time.

In the FGB on 13/02/2020 it was agreed that DBS and 128 checks for Governors will be reapplied for at the beginning of the Governors next term of office (normally every 4 years) if they choose to stand for Governor again for another term.

Declaration of Interest

* Governors will declare any pecuniary interest or conflict of interest with any agenda item *at the beginning of the meeting.*

Pecuniary interests

The governing board will maintain a register of business interests of its members.

The register of business interests is filed in the school office and a summary is published on the school website.

Code of Conduct for West Berkshire governors

Every governor (and associate member) will read and agree to follow the Code of Conduct for West Berkshire governors.

Confirmation of Confidentiality

As per the Virtual Meeting Policy, it is the responsibility of individual governors, wishing to participate virtually, to ensure they can do so through a secure method and in an environment conducive to confidential and private communication. Anyone participating in a meeting using technology must declare that they are in an environment which is a secure and which protects confidentiality. Meetings must not take place on a train, or coffee shop, for example. Confirmation of confidentiality must be declared at each meeting.

Governors' Expenses

The governing board may pay expenses in accordance with Part 6 of the School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013.

Arrangements are detailed in the Governors' Allowances Policy, a copy of which can be obtained via the School Office and is available on Governor Hub.

Committees, working parties and appeal panels

Associate members

The governing board may appoint associate members to serve on one or more committees (and to attend full governing board meetings). Associate members are not governors.

Committees

A committee of the governing board is set up with delegated powers, with the governing board deciding its membership, the procedures for appointing its Chair, what powers it will have, whether it will include associate members and, if so, whether they may vote. This must be decided at a full governing board meeting and minuted. The governing board remains responsible for any decisions taken by committees and these decisions must be reported back to the full governing board at their next meeting. The establishment, terms of reference, constitution and membership of committees must be reviewed annually by a full governing board meeting. The Chair of each committee must also be appointed annually.

Quorum of committees The minimum quorum is three governors. Associate members are not included in calculating the quorum.

Headteacher The head teacher has the right to attend any committee meetings, subject to the statutory rules on withdrawal. The head teacher cannot clerk committee meetings.

Clerk The governing board must appoint a clerk to each committee.

Committees

Business

Learning & Teaching

Pay & Performance

Ethos and Wellbeing

Working parties

A working party of the governing board may be set up with the governing board deciding its membership and the topics it will discuss. A working party cannot make any decisions nor have any delegated powers. A working party can only bring recommendations to the full governing board (or a relevant committee if responsibility has been delegated to a committee) for approval.

Working Parties

The Board of Governors currently has no Working Parties.

Appeal panels

Under certain circumstances, the governing board will be required to establish a panel of governors to hear an appeal. Associate members cannot sit on an appeal panel. The relevant policy the governing board has adopted will detail how the appeal panel is made up and how it functions.

Parent and Staff Governor Elections

The governing body must agree the rules of the election and appoint a returning officer, usually the head teacher.

This governing body resolves that the returning officer is the headteacher.

This governing body resolves that the rules of parent governor and staff elections shall be determined in a FGB meeting in accordance with LA guidelines prior to each election and minuted. Copies of the rules will be held in the school office.

Appointment of Co-Opted Governors

The Governing Body resolves that co-opted governors will be appointed on the basis of required skills, to be agreed at a full governing body meeting. Prospective governors will be asked to complete a nomination form and to meet with the Chair of Governors and the Head Teacher. Following this meeting, a recommendation on whether to appoint will be made to the full governing body.

The governing board is primarily seeking to maintain its strengths in the following areas:

1. HR/legal skills
2. Numerical and analytical skills
3. Health and Safety

The governing board has also identified three areas which would be desirable, but not essential:

1. Links with the community
2. Skills and expertise in marketing and or PR to raise the profile of the school within the community.
3. Local business knowledge and understanding of the local economy

All governors are expected to have an understanding of schools and education and to support and encourage the Christian principles of the school as laid out in the school's Instrument of Government.