

Be the best you can, guided by God

Bolney CE Primary School

Governor Impact Statement: 2025/26

What is the role of Bolney School Governors?

The Governing Body is a group of dedicated volunteers, including parents, staff and members of our wider community in Bolney, who invest a huge amount of good will, hard work and time for the sole purpose of improving the education of every child in our school.

As Governors, we are accountable for the performance of our school and as a body we have three core strategic functions:

- 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 the money is spent well

This impact statement gives some further information about our role in school leadership and the impact we have had on school improvement.

Clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

- Our Sprituality Committee works actively to develop our children's understanding of Christianity and the school's Christian ethos, which we see as being crucial to children's development.
- Our Governors have visited the school for learning walks and to meet with staff and pupils. This means we understand our school well.
- We review staff, pupil and parent surveys and agree next steps with school leadership.
- Our Chair of Governors and Ms Lofthouse meet frequently to discuss priorities at the school.
- Safeguarding and Health & Safety are at the centre of our work. Our safeguarding link governor meets regularly with Ms Lofthouse to discuss the school's approach to all aspects of safeguarding. This includes online safety. We carry out health and safety walks throughout the year.
- We participated in a call with UNICEF to achieve the school's Silver Rights Respecting Accreditation.

Educational Performance

- Our Curriculum Committee meets termly to review progress of the school's development plan and to discuss work the school is doing to make the curriculum challenging, engaging and coherent. In 2025/6 we especially focused on the impact of initiatives to develop children's writing and pride in presentation.
- We are in close contact with the SENDCo and have a designated SEND and vulnerable children Governor. We frequently discuss how all children are being supported at Curriculum Committee meetings.
- The school designates a teacher to be "subject lead" for each subject taught at school, and our governors work with them to review their action plans and the impact of these.
- Our Data Working Party scrutinises anonymised attainment data and discusses the ways in which children are supported to achieve their full potential.

In our SIAMS Inspection in May 2025, the school's ethos and Christian vision was praised. This is the result of careful collaboration between school leaders and governors in the school's Spirituality Committee.

Financial Performance

- Our Resources Committee meets termly to scrutinise budgets and staffing. We also meet on an ad hoc basis with our Business Manager.
- Our committee reviews the ways in which the school obtains best value for money.
- We discuss the impact of funding for specific purposes, for example pupil premium, children looked after and PE & Sports premium.

Other

- Our governor action plan and timetable keeps us focused on key development priorities. We have specific formats for our visit reports and share information at our meetings.
- We have recruited a new parent governor and foundation governor to the governing body. We are actively searching for a new parent and a new co-opted governor.
- Our governors undertake training, including safeguarding training, and we share best practice at our meetings.
- Our governors attend update calls and seminars with West Sussex County Council and the Diocese of Chichester and share key messages.
- We met with our pupil governor and spirituality representative in year 6 and they helped with our monitoring and communications.
- We review school policies on a rolling basis to ensure these are up-to-date and in line with County Council recommendations.
- We carry out Head Teacher Performance Management each year to ensure that objectives are in line with the school's development priorities.
- Our Chair of Governors is a regular volunteer and a familiar face around school. She can be reached by emailing: governors@bolneyprimary.school

In March 2025, OFSTED rated all aspects of the school as "Good" and noted that, "Those responsible for governance carry out their roles effectively. They accurately understand the school's strengths and priorities for improvement."