

Weston Church of England (Voluntary Controlled)

Primary & Nursery School

A Community, Learning and Growing

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Weston Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary and Nursery School

September 2025

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Weston Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary and Nursery School Governing Body are:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
2. **Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and for the performance management of staff;**
3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Weston Primary and Nursery School was re-constituted in 2019 and is now made up of the Head Teacher, 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 3 Foundation Governors, 1 Staff Governor and 4 Co-opted Governors. The Governing Body appoints co-opted governors who are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. The Full Governing Body meets 4 times per school year, working with the Head Teacher and other leaders to ensure there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

We have two Committees comprising a Curriculum Committee and a Resources Committee, each of which meets once each term. The Curriculum Committee reviews and analyses the educational outcomes achieved by the school's pupils and the Resources Committee oversees the effective use of financial, human and premises resources by the school. Governors also ensure that the school lives up to its foundation as a Church School.

Governors complete and report on Governor Visits to the school, in order to ensure that their knowledge of the school's strengths and possible areas for development is accurate and up-to-date.

	A full list of Governors and their responsibilities can be found on the school website.
Current priorities and activity	We are delighted that the school received a grade of 'Good' in its most recent Ofsted Inspection (in 2023) and also in its most recent SIAMS (or Church School) Inspection. Governors work closely with the Head Teacher and other school leaders to ensure we develop an accurate understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development and hold the Head Teacher to account for school improvement work. The inspection reports identified many strengths in the school and we work with the school to build upon these. Ofsted stated that 'the leadership has maintained the good quality of education in the school'. In 2025-2026, Governors will continue to work closely with the Head Teacher and other school leaders to further improve our school, for example by continuing the work from previous years on ensuring the school's theologically rooted Christian Vision (shown below) enables all children and adults in the school to flourish. <i>A Community, Learning and Growing</i> • <i>Our school's strong community includes our pupils, staff, parents, governors and others.</i> • <i>All members of this community are growing, learning and flourishing alongside one another.</i> • <i>To do this, we need strong roots to support our growth as individuals.</i> • <i>Our Christian Vision is based on Psalm 1 which compares people to trees, growing and flourishing.</i> • <i>We also learn about a range of Christian Values to help us understand the life and teachings of Jesus.</i> • <i>Our school logo reflects this vision, and also our rural location.</i> Other priorities include: building on the successes the school has already had in developing a love of reading in its pupils as part of our Reading for Pleasure initiative; embedding the use of a scheme for Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) to further improve the progress of children with their Phonics and Reading; further developing a coherently structured and sequenced curriculum across the full range of subjects; embedding the principles of mastery

learning in Maths lessons; and taking account of staff workload and wellbeing in all that we do.

In 2025, the school's results for the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check continued to exceed national averages. Across 2023-2025, the school's average Year 6 SATs results continue to exceed national averages in all but two areas. These two areas (the proportion of children attaining at greater depth in Maths and in Grammar/Punctuation/Spelling) will also be the focus for further school improvement work this year.

The school staff have worked very hard to achieve as much progress as possible for the school's pupils. We continue to monitor the progress of all pupils closely, including for those pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding, those pupils with SEND and most able pupils.

Good use has also been made to the school's sports provision, using the Sports Premium funding. The school has actively re-engaged with sports clubs and fixtures at every opportunity.

Given the current financial climate, the school has had to make savings across a number of areas in the recent past; as a result it is now in a stronger position. All of the school's external windows and doors were replaced by Herts County Council in late 2018 and in 2021, the council also funded works for the funding of an entire new heating and water system. The school's success in bidding for and obtaining these improvements should lead to better energy efficiency of the building and should make it a more pleasant learning environment for pupils. The school's bid for a new roof has also been accepted and we hope that this work will take place this school year.

Governors have supported the opening of 'Peanuts Preschool' on the school site. This is an independent nursery offering child care to supplement that already available at the school's own Nursery.

Safeguarding is of great importance and we have a nominated Governor for Safeguarding. All staff and Governors have undertaken Safeguarding Training.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and we have considered a number of key policies, including Child Protection, Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Health & Safety.

Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Dave Gunn, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors, their attendance at meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.
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