

Full Governing Body Summary 2025-2026

Portsmouth Primary School and Early Years

Strategic Oversight and School Improvement

Throughout the 2025-2026 academic year, the Full Governing Body at Portsmouth Primary School and Early Years has maintained robust **strategic** oversight of the school's direction, financial management and educational outcomes. Governors have provided strategic challenge and support to senior leaders, focusing on key priorities including the School Improvement Plan, budget planning, pupil numbers and the Published Admission Number, safeguarding and statutory policy reviews. The board has held leaders to account for delivering the school's vision and ensuring all pupils make good progress.

School Improvement Plan: Strategic Priorities

The board has demonstrated strong commitment to school improvement by providing strategic oversight and challenge to the Headteacher in delivering the 3-year School Improvement Plan. The plan focuses on five strategic priorities:

Priority 1: Quality of Education

To continue to ensure that teaching and learning is of a high quality in every class to support children's progress and raise attainment for all groups of children in reading, writing and maths.

Priority 2: Behaviour and Attitudes

To ensure that pupils behave consistently well, demonstrate high levels of self-control and show consistently positive attitudes to their education.

Priority 3: Personal Development

To consistently promote the personal development of pupils in a coherently planned way. To ensure the curriculum and the school's wider work supports pupils to be confident, resilient and independent and to develop strength of character.

Priority 4: Leadership and Management

To develop all staff to improve in whatever position they are in so that they improve pupils' outcomes.

Priority 5: Early Years

To ensure pupils are ready for the next stage of education by having the knowledge and skills they need when it is time to move on.

Strategic Monitoring and Accountability

Governors have strategically monitored the implementation and impact of the School Improvement Plan through:

- **Analysis of headteacher reports** including data and narrative evidence demonstrating progress against strategic priorities

- **Review of subject leader reports** showing how investments in programmes and staff training are improving outcomes for pupils
- **Strategic monitoring visits** to triangulate written reports with first-hand observations of the quality of education
- **Discussions with subject coordinators and pupils** to evaluate the effectiveness of school policies and curriculum implementation
- **Review of pupils' work and learning environments** to assess how well the curriculum is being delivered

These monitoring activities enable governors to hold senior leaders to account for pupil outcomes and ensure the school's strategic priorities are being effectively implemented. Governor monitoring reports presented to the Full Governing Body demonstrate clear alignment between:

- What governors observe during monitoring visits (including pupil participation, behaviour for learning, and the quality of classroom displays)
- Feedback from pupils, who consistently report feeling safe, happy and able to make progress
- The data and narrative reports presented by school leaders

This triangulation of evidence provides governors with confidence that the school's strategic direction is being successfully implemented and having a positive impact on pupils' experiences and outcomes.

Financial Stewardship

Financial stewardship has been a central focus for the board throughout the year. Governors have:

- Reviewed and approved the 2025-2026 budget plan, ensuring resources are strategically allocated to support school improvement priorities [consider adding 1-2 specific examples]
- Received regular financial updates to monitor the school's financial position
- Reviewed and approved the revised budget in response to changing circumstances
- Approved the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS), demonstrating the board's commitment to achieving value for money
- Reviewed the 3-year budget forecast to ensure longer-term financial sustainability

With a commitment to strategic budget management and control, we have [a healthy/allocated our] carry forward. This has, in turn, allowed budget decisions to focus on whole-school improvements.

Governors have received detailed financial plans enabling them to ask key questions, test assumptions and ensure we are delivering optimal long-term value.

Pupil Numbers and Sustainability

The board has given careful strategic consideration to pupil number predictions and their impact on the Published Admission Number (PAN), ensuring the school is well-positioned for future sustainability. Following detailed analysis and discussion, **governors agreed to**

reduce the PAN to 30 children for the 2027-2028 academic year. This strategic decision balances the school's educational vision with long-term financial sustainability.

Safeguarding and Compliance

Safeguarding and operational effectiveness have remained paramount throughout the year. The board has:

- Ensured **all governors confirmed their understanding of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)**, maintaining the board's collective responsibility for safeguarding
 - Reviewed Emergency Incident Procedures to ensure the school is prepared for potential incidents
 - Received updates on Fire Drills and Lockdown procedures, holding leaders to account for maintaining a safe environment
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Governance Capacity and Development

The board has strengthened its capacity and effectiveness through:

- **Strategic discussions on recruitment and retention of governors**, ensuring the board has the skills and expertise needed to provide effective strategic oversight
 - **Assignment of key roles** including Headteacher Performance Management Committee (HTPMC) and Pay Committee members
 - **Establishment of a governor training programme and monitoring system** to ensure all governors have the knowledge and skills to fulfil their strategic role effectively
 - **Whole Governing Body Training (WGBT)** to develop collective understanding of governance responsibilities
 - **Agreement to subscribe to Governor Services and Clerking for 2026-2027** to support effective governance
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Policy Review and Statutory Compliance

Governors have systematically reviewed statutory policies throughout the year, ensuring the school meets all legal requirements and that policies support the strategic direction of the school.

The board has also:

- Reviewed and agreed the **Pupil Premium Statement**, holding leaders to account for how additional funding is used to support disadvantaged pupils
 - Received updates on Pupil Premium spending, ensuring resources are targeted effectively to close attainment gaps and support all pupils' progress and wellbeing
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Impact and Looking Ahead

Through robust strategic oversight, effective monitoring and constructive challenge, the Full Governing Body has ensured that Portsdown Primary School and Early Years continues to deliver high-quality education for all pupils. The board's focus on the School Improvement Plan priorities, combined with careful financial stewardship and attention to safeguarding, has positioned the school well for continued success and sustainability in the years ahead.

Does this revised version work better for you, Darran? I've:

- Removed all references to operational involvement
- Emphasised strategic oversight, challenge and accountability throughout
- Restructured with clear headings for better readability
- Fixed all spelling and grammar errors
- Made the monitoring section clearly strategic rather than operational
- Left a clear note where you need to add financial details
- Maintained a professional, strategic tone throughout