

# ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/24

## Governing Body of Hitherfield Primary School

This statement can be read in conjunction with information on the school's website at <https://www.hitherfield.co.uk/our-school/governors>

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Hitherfield Primary School Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff;
- Overseeing financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

### 1. Vision and Values

The Hitherfield Primary School Vision:

*'Our vision is to create a school community where everyone feels valued, has the opportunity to explore and develop their strengths and is able to participate in new experiences. We aim to become an inspirational school to produce good citizens for the future in an atmosphere that promotes confidence, high academic achievement, physical health and emotional well-being.'*

### 2. Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body of Hitherfield Primary School was reconstituted in July 2015 and updated in September 2023. In 2023/24 there were 15 full members of the Governing Body and 2 Associate Members:

- Staff Governor (Headteacher) 1
- Appointed by the Local Authority 1
- Parent Governors (elected) 4
- Staff Governor (elected) 1
- Co-opted by the Governing Body 8
- Associate Members (appointed by the Governing Body) 3 (with 1 resignation in-year)

The Full Governing Body meets four times a year, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. The Resources Committee and Learning and Personal Development (LAPD) Committee each meet six times a year. We convene special committees if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

The Chair of Governors and the Executive Headteacher serve on Resources and LAPD Committees as *ex officio* members. All other Governors serve on one Committee.

- The Resources Committee covers finance, personnel and premises matters, and deals with data protection and the Better Start Areas. (Hitherfield's Better Start Area Manager is also an Associate Member of this Committee). It sets the school's annual budget and monitors implementation with reports from the Executive Headteacher and the School Business Manager.
- The Learning and Personal Development Committee has spent time considering development of the curriculum. Governors discuss key data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. We are also concerned about "vulnerable groups" of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes.
- Safeguarding is the responsibility of the Full Governing Body and is discussed within each of the Committees. Two governors have been nominated to lead on safeguarding matters and they meet regularly with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### **3. Governor Attendance**

A record of Governors' attendance at meetings is kept by the Clerk to the Governing Body. (See Table 1 for details). To be quorate, allowing formal decision to be made, there need to be at least 50% of Governors in attendance at the Full Governing Body meetings and at least three Governors (who are members of the Committee) in attendance at Committee meetings. To date, all meetings have been quorate.

### **4. Strategic Plan**

The strategic priority during 2023/24 was dominated by the school's financial outlook. Historically, Hitherfield has been in a healthy financial situation, carrying forward a surplus each year to support teaching and learning in the school. Financial pressures have altered this, with Hitherfield trimming its expenditure in-year to prepare a balanced budget for 2024/25. Three pressures were anticipated to produce a real terms reduction in the school's financial allocation: (1) unfunded national pay award; (2) revised national funding formula giving less weight to deprivation, distributing money away from London schools; (3) falling school rolls (although Hitherfield is currently less vulnerable to this pressure than many other Lambeth schools; in 2022/23 the school had over 300 applications, 110 of which were first choice. Hitherfield had more first preferences than any other school in the borough).

The Executive Head Teacher and School Business Manager met more frequently with members of the Resources Committee to present detailed projections and actions.

Other areas identified as priorities at the Governor Strategic Away Day in February 2024, and requiring their own working group, include:

- Special Educational Needs (SEND), led by the Inclusion Governor;
- Governor Roles, Responsibilities and Succession

## 5. Focus for Governors during 2023/24

Hitherfield Primary School was inspected by OFSTED Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June/Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023. (It was a Section 8 ungraded inspection, rather than a full graded inspection, so the school remains Good with Outstanding Leadership. Single word judgements will not be assigned in the future). Following the inspection, the School Development Plan for 2023/24 identified key areas for improvement with a special focus on curriculum planning. The language of intent, implementation and impact has been set by OFSTED. Progress against target in these areas was presented and discussed by governors at Full Governing Body meetings and considered in detail at the Committees.

### Box 1. School Development Plan – Key Areas for Improvement 2023/24

- *“Clarity of **Intent** across the curriculum through detailed progression frameworks for all subjects that highlight the non-negotiable and key information, the vocabulary and skills. The progression frameworks reflect the ongoing development of the curriculum and our teaching practice through our ongoing pedagogical development and the anti-racism and neuro-diversity working parties.*
- *Secure consistency in reading practice (including phonics) across the school and for all intervention groups, ensuring children, including those with SEND, move through the phonic phases quickly, when ready. **Implementation***
- *All staff use clear formative assessment goals linked to the non-negotiable and key information, the vocabulary and skills **Impact***
- *All children, including those with SEND, can articulate what they know, remember from previous learning and what they can do. **Impact***
- *All Leaders demonstrate excellence in leading their assigned areas and this is reflected in the curriculum progression documents that highlight the non-negotiable and key information, vocabulary and skills, the quality of provision and standards across the school and every subject leader’s digital portfolio. **Intent, Implementation and Impact***
- *Meet the school’s achievement targets in every year group with a focus on groups, especially Pupil Premium, Black Caribbean and SEND children. **Impact***
- *To ensure the on-going financial sustainability of the school.*
- *Ensure the Better Start Areas offer appropriate, high quality support to our communities.*
- *The Governing Body fully understands the school’s curriculum **Intent, Implementation and Impact**”*

Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 give an indication of how well the teaching and learning is functioning against external benchmarks. Annex 2 gives a summary of results showing good attainment among Hitherfield pupils.

The school’s policies and procedures were regularly reviewed and updated during the year

particularly to ensure ongoing compliance with national and local guidance and legislation. The school's key and statutory policies can be found on the school website at <https://www.hitherfield.co.uk/our-school/policies>.

Approved Minutes of meetings can be obtained by contacting the Clerk to the Governing Body via the school office at [admin@hitherfield.co.uk](mailto:admin@hitherfield.co.uk).

## **6. The Hitherfield Community**

Governors acknowledge the important contribution of the PTA. It has worked tirelessly to raise money for the school and to provide many wonderful events: 'Big Fridays', Summer Fair, Eid Fair, busking, Christmas Fair, ice-cream Fridays, quiz night, wreath-making, uniform sales ... and more. In 2023/24 fundraising reached a remarkable £30,000 and has paid for the Magic Carpet Astroturf, installed over the summer holiday, as well as new reading books and the Year 5 Shakespeare performance. The Hitherfield community is very appreciative and the Full Governing Body expresses its gratitude.

We also welcome the fact that our Breakfast and After School Clubs and other extracurricular Clubs are so popular and provide a vital service to many parents.

## **7. How to Contact your Governing Body**

Information about the Governing Body is available at <https://www.hitherfield.co.uk/our-school/governors>. Our Clerk to the Governing Body, Mr. Peter Compton, or the Chair of Governors, Dr Tessa Crilly, can be contacted via the school office or by e-mail via [admin@hitherfield.co.uk](mailto:admin@hitherfield.co.uk) or you can write to them via our postal address.

*Tessa Crilly, Chair of Governors  
On Behalf of Full Governing Body of Hitherfield Primary School  
September 2024*

**Annex 1. Hitherfield Primary School & Children’s Centre - Governor meeting Attendance Record 2023/24**

Governor	Category	Full Governing Body	Resources Committee	Learning & Personal Development	Pay	Chairs’ Sub Group
Taiwo Afolabi	Associate	0/1	0/1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emily Andrews	Co-Opted	4/4	N/A	6/6	N/A	N/A
Chris Ashley Jones	Staff (Headteacher)	4/4	6/6	6/6	2/2	3/3
Michael Ball	Co-Opted	2/4	N/A	4/6	N/A	N/A
Clare Christie	Staff	3/4	N/A	4/6	N/A	N/A
Tessa Crilly	Co-Opted	4/4	6/6	6/6	2/2	3/3
Phyllis Dunipace	Co-Opted	3/4	6/6	N/A	2/2	3/3
Michael Elliott	Co-Opted	3/4	4/6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Karen Frankel	Parent	4/4	5/6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Simon Hooberman	Local Authority	3/4	5/6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Anna Hutchinson	Parent	4/4	N/A	6/6	N/A	N/A
Jade Koch	Parent	4/4	N/A	6/6	N/A	N/A
Graham Lee	Co-Opted	2/4	5/6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Luke Parker	Associate	3/4	N/A	5/6	N/A	N/A
Julia Patrick	Co-Opted	3/4	N/A	5/6	N/A	3/3
Mike Short	Parent	4/4	6/6	N/A	2/2	3/3
Arlette Wells	Associate	N/A	5/6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nicola Yarlett	Co-Opted	2/4	6/6	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Annex 2. Summary of Results 2024

### EYFS:

At the end of Reception Hitherfield assesses the pupils and identify who has reached 'A Good Level of Development'. This information is not shared with the DfE, as they only require the Baseline assessment. Therefore there is no national figure available.

Children attaining 'A Good Level of Development'	2024 - 73%	2023 - 72%	2022 - 60%
National	2024 - 67% (Lambeth 68%)	2023 - 67%	2022 - 63%

### Year 1 Phonics:

Children are tested on their phonics knowledge at the end of Year 1.

% attaining a 'pass'	2024 - 92%	2023 - 74%	2022 - 73%
National	2024 - 80% (Lambeth 79%)	2023 - 79%	2022 - 75%

We have an analysis of why every child did not attain the 'pass'.

### Year 2:

We report an updated phonics pass rate at the end of Year 2.

Phonics - % attaining a 'pass'	2024 - 94%	2023 - 96%	2022 - 95%
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### Year 6:

We report the test outcomes for Reading, GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) and Maths and the teacher assessment for Writing, along with the combined R,W,M percentages. The figures include the 4 children with EHCPs who did not sit the tests, several of which are going to specialist secondary schools.

#### 2024

2024 Year 6 (including all counted pupils)	Reading	Writing	Maths	Combined	GPS
Greater Depth	52%	25%	30%	16%	25%
Expected +	90%	78%	77%	72%	76%
Working Towards Standard	5%	16%	18%		19%
Below Key Stage	6%	6%	6%		6%

### National 2024

National	Reading	Writing	Maths	Combined	GPS
Greater Depth	28%	13%	24%	8%	30%
Expected +	74% (Lambeth 78%)	72% (Lambeth 74%)	73% (Lambeth 77%)	61% (Lambeth 65%)	72%

### Average Scaled Scores

	Reading	Maths	GPS
Hitherfield	108	104	104
National 2024	105	104	105

### Historic:

#### Hitherfield 2023

2023 Year 6 (including all counted pupils)	Reading	Writing	Maths	Combined	GPS
Greater Depth	42%	25%	27%	19%	38%
Expected +	85%	79%	74%	64%	74%
Working Towards Standard	14%	19%	24%		24%
Below Key Stage	1%	2%	2%		2%

#### Hitherfield 2022

2022 Year 6 (including all counted pupils)	Reading	Writing	Maths	Combined	GPS
Greater Depth	33%	18%	15%	7%	33%
Expected +	74%	67%	73%	55%	74%
Working Towards Standard	18%	25%	20%		18%
Below Key Stage	7%	7%	7%		7%

The National figures for 2023 are below.

National	Reading	Writing	Maths	Combined	GPS
Greater Depth	29%	13%	24%	8%	30%
Expected +	73%	71%	73%	59%	72%

### Average Scaled Scores

	Reading	Maths	GPS
Hitherfield	107	104	106
National 2023	105	104	105