



**Governance Statement for the Governing Board of
Mersea Island School
2024-25**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all Governing Boards, the three core strategic functions of Mersea Island School Governing Board 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;**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

**Governance
arrangements**

The Governing Board of Mersea Island School consists of 18 governors comprising 4 parent governors, 2 partnership governors, 1 local authority governor, 1 staff governor the Head teacher and 9 co-opted governors one of whom is the Deputy Head Teacher. The full Governing Board and each committee typically meet once each term. We have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. These comprise a Finance & Premises Committee, a Curriculum & Pupil Committee and a Personnel & Pay Committee. We also have further committees that meet as required to consider pupil discipline and staffing related matters.

A list of Governors, together with a summary of their skills and backgrounds, can be found on the school website. During the period covered by this report we have appointed three new governors to fill vacancies that had arisen but unfortunately, the position of staff governor remains vacant as at the time of preparing this report.

**Attendance record
of governors**

Governors have an excellent attendance record at meetings and we have never been required to cancel a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that decisions can be made legally).

The attendance record of Governors can be found posted on the school website.

**The work that we have undertaken in our committees and by the Governing Board**

Education at Mersea Island School is inclusive, enabling each pupil to achieve their best and be well prepared to face the next stage in their life. The drive to embed good practices to improve pupils' outcomes, still further, continued this year. This year's School Development Plan had specific objectives. These were that teaching is adapted to meet the needs of all pupils; strategies are in place to support families with complex needs; that teaching improves pupils' knowledge of Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation and their ability to apply that understanding in different contexts; that pupil attendance is improved and persistence absence reduced. Key areas to be addressed were set out in the School Development Plan as well as in the objectives and success criteria in the Head Teacher's performance review.

The Governors visit the school regularly, primarily, by way of subject based climate visits. This enables governors to speak directly with the children outside of the classroom (pupil voice), as well as the staff. These conversations are designed to establish to what extent the key aspects of the School Development Plan (SDP) are taking place in the classroom. Governors write reports about their visits which are discussed with both the classroom staff and the Head Teacher.

These help to inform future developments. Data on pupil progress is discussed regularly with the Head Teacher in order to develop new approaches, if required. Governors have a strong focus on safeguarding and we have a nominated Governor for Safeguarding. A detailed report is presented to the Full Governing Board once a term, after discussion with the Head Teacher.

The Curriculum Committee has been focused on how the school is improving the outcomes for all pupils. The committee has spent time considering adaptations to the curriculum to further build on the firm foundations already in place. Governors also discuss key data relating to pupil attainment and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. Benchmarking reports are also shared. We also focus on the impact of the Pupil and Sports' Premium Grants.

The Finance and Premises Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises and



	makes recommendations to the Full Governing Board about the school budget and how the school should use it whilst obtaining value for money. The Personnel Committee has oversight of recruitment and staff development with responsibility for holding the Head Teacher to account for their own performance and the performance of all staff. It also keeps under review staffing matters in general, including staff welfare/wellbeing and safety. One of the roles for the Governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies. There used to be 3-year cycle of reviewing all the school policies, although many are now reviewed annually. Minutes of Governing Board and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you wish to see any of the minutes of our meetings.
Future plans for the governors	The Governors work closely with not only the Head Teacher but also the Senior Leadership Team in order to support them in achieving the best for the children of the school. The Governing Board is also reflective and undertakes appropriate training to ensure they can best support the school. Governors are keen for the school to continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, which draws on the local environment as a resource for learning, as well as offering a wide range of clubs and activities out of school. In addition, it is one that is ambitious for all pupils focusing on developing each one so as to prepare them for the world in which they live.
How you can contact the Governing Board	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and in this regard please contact the Chair, either by email at chair@merseaschool.org or via the School Office. Also, if you are interested in becoming a school Governor, please speak to Mrs Wright or any of the Governors in the first instance.