



**Governance Statement for the Governing Board of
Mersea Island School
2023-24**

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 4 parent governors, 2 partnership governors, 1 authority governor, 2 staff governors, the Head teacher and 7 co-opted governors. 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. At Mersea Island School we have a Finance and Premises Committee, a Curriculum Committee and a Personnel and Pay Committee. We also have 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.

Unfortunately there is an authority vacancy together with a number of co-opted governor vacancies and we are seeking people to fill these.

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

In March 2023 the school had a most successful OFSTED inspection which resulted in the school being graded as good in all areas under the new Section 5 Inspection framework. This is a strong inspection report that endorses the hard work and effort of all those involved, pupils, staff and governors, in gaining this accolade. The report abounds in comments praising the strengths and achievements of the school. It endorses the focus of the school in developing and embedding good practices to improve pupil outcomes still further and this focus continues. We invite you to read the report which is posted on the School website.

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 as the new National Curriculum is fully implemented. Governors also discuss key data giving the results of pupil attainment and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. 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 decisions 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 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 is usually a 3-year cycle of reviewing all the school policies, although some are reviewed annually such as the safeguarding and health and safety policies. 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 at the school in order to both hold them to account and 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. In the context of the above, the Governing Board has set goals to improve outcomes across the school with specific targets for each year group. Key areas to be addressed are set out in the School Development Plan as well as in the objectives and success criteria in the Head Teacher's performance review.



How you can contact the Governing Board	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and in this regard please contact the Chair, Graham Brown 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.
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