



# Annual Governance Statement 2025

Sedbergh Primary School Governing Board

Date: 24/09/2025

## **Dear Parents/Carers and School Community,**

As Chair of the Governing Board at Sedbergh Primary School, I am pleased to present our annual statement for the academic year 2024/25. This statement aims to outline the key activities and impact of the governing board over the past year, our ongoing priorities, and our commitment to supporting the school community.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all boards of governors, the three strategic functions of the Sedbergh Primary School board are:

- ***ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction***
- ***holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and***
- ***overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent***

## Governance Structure and Attendance

The governing board should be made up of a diverse group of volunteers, including parents, staff, local authority representative and co-opted governors, who work collaboratively to provide strategic direction and ensure accountability at Sedbergh Primary School. Attendance at meetings remains strong, reflecting our governors' commitment to the school and you can view our attendance records on our website.

The current board comprises 10 members currently with 3 vacancies:

- 4 Co-Opt Governor (2 vacancies)
- 3 Parent Governor (0 vacancies)
- 0 Local Authority Governor (1 vacancy)
- 1 Staff governor
- 1 Headteacher
- 1 Associate Member

The board has now successfully transitioned to a 'Circle of Governance' style meeting whereby we have 6 full governing board meetings, each one focusing on an area of governance relating to the school year. This has reduced meeting numbers and improved attendance and participation of all governors in all aspects of the school. We have retained smaller sub-committees for specific purposes.

Within the board individual 'lead' governors have responsibilities for liaising with the Senior Leadership Team in specific areas, including Safeguarding, SEND, Health and



Safety, Finance and specific curriculum subjects. We still aim to increase governor board membership this year to ensure balanced workloads for members and provide better coverage of our strategic functions. We also continue to ensure succession planning is an important part of our planning.

The Board of Governors is a committed team and attendance at meetings has been good (*attendance records are available on the website*) and this has been helped by a more flexible hybrid approach to meetings (in-person is preferred but we allow virtual attendance when required). Members, throughout the year, have continued to visit the school, attending events, observing classes, meeting with teachers and pupils and when necessary, speaking to external advisors.

We undergo regular training via the National Governance Association (NGA) and other appropriate training providers by attending courses or online modules in all aspects of school life from safeguarding to finance. We also invite staff members to give school focused training around key aspects of our roles and responsibilities. This allows for a deeper understanding of our school context within a wider professional and national context.

If you are interested in becoming a governor please contact our Headteacher or myself directly (contact details below).



## What we have accomplished or supported in the academic year 2024/2025

- Governors are continuing to support the headteacher focus on curriculum development and are aware of the Ofsted inspection framework, where the priorities of inspection have placed the curriculum along with leadership and management firmly at the core.
- All maintained schools follow the National Curriculum; our role is to ensure the school implements any changes in a way that ensures progress for all pupils and achieves a high level of attainment utilizing all grants and other resources in ensuring the reconnection of pupil's education after the pandemic restrictions. This has been demonstrated by the excellent results in KS2 SATS. This has been achieved through a team effort by all our teaching and support staff coupled with the fantastic effort made by our outgoing Year 6 pupils.
- The School Development Plan is a 'living document' and is reviewed at all governor meetings ensuring that we continue to monitor, challenge, and remain focused with all pupils throughout the school benefiting. This document is an integral part of work.
- The school continues to be committed to inclusivity for all children and ensures key changes and development regarding SEND are implemented. Our policies in this area ensure that emphasis is placed on the relationship between school and parents/carers and continuing good practice.
- Implementation of OPAL play scheme has been successful and we are now seeing this being embedded in the culture of the school. It has full support of governors and a dedicated link governor.
- Governors have a key role in keeping children safe at school, our policy for safeguarding children is in line with the statutory framework which is in line with the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' document published in September 2025.
- Governors have continued to monitor how the government's Pupil Premium and Sports Grants are being spent, ensuring that disadvantaged children enjoy the benefits of their peers, as well as assisting with pupils' fitness, health, and wellbeing across the school. We have during the year invested amounts in both alterations and equipment in further developing facilities for all.
- Wraparound has gone from strength to strength and is now well and truly embedded in the school it has continued to be popular and at the end of this year has again seen record registrations.



## Priorities for the Year Ahead

1. Continue to support the improvement of teaching and learning across all year groups.
2. Ensure the wellbeing and safety of pupils and staff remains paramount.
3. Monitor the impact of interventions designed to close attainment gaps.
4. Enhance communication and collaboration with parents and carers.
5. Maintain strong financial oversight in light of changing funding arrangements.
6. Support PTI Hub status to strengthen subject provision and leadership and increase collaboration with local schools.

## Governor Training and Development

This year, governors continue to undertake training in safeguarding, curriculum changes, and effective governance. We are committed to ongoing development to ensure that the board remains effective and informed. We have implemented improvements to our new governor induction pack and training.

## Thanks and Acknowledgements

On behalf of the governing board, I would like to thank the headteacher, staff, pupils, parents, the PTFA and the wider school community for their continued support. Together, we all strive to ensure that Sedbergh Primary School provides a safe, happy, and inspiring environment for all children.

## Contact the Governing Board

We always welcome suggestions, feedback, and ideas from parents/carers, or if you wish to join our board. Please feel very welcome to contact me, Elliot Hartley, Chair of Governors, via the school office or email at [chair@sedbergh-pri.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:chair@sedbergh-pri.cumbria.sch.uk).

Kind Regards

*Elliot Hartley*

**Chair of Governors  
Sedbergh Primary School**