PRETTYGATE SCHOOLS
Annual Governance Statement for the Federated Governing Body of Prettygate Infant and Junior School

Autumn 2026 (reflecting academic year 25-26)

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing boards, the three core strategic functions of Prettygate Infant and Junior School Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the schools and its pupils
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Governance arrangements for 2026/2027</td><td>The Federated Governing Body of Prettygate Infant and Junior School is made up of 13 Governors.

The composition is 1 Local Authority Governor, 2 parent Governors, 8 Co-opted Governors, 1 Staff Governor and the Headteacher. Terms of office are for four years.

Co-opted Governors appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Body, have the skills and expertise required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. On our Governing Body currently one co-opted governor is a member of school staff, four are parents and two are members of the community. Parent governors are elected by other parents at the school and can continue to hold office until the end of their term of office even if their child leaves the school. Our current Chair of Governors is a Co-opted Governor. Our staff governor is elected by the staff.

We currently have one co-opted governor space (as at July 2026) and one parent governor vacancy (as at June 2026).

The Full Governing Body meets twice each term under a Circle Model of Terms of Reference. Occasionally extraordinary Full Governing Body meetings are held in between termly meetings when there is business which needs decisions made on before the next scheduled full board meeting. The Standing Orders make provision for meetings to be held through either conference calls and/or on line meetings when necessary.

We also have facilities for committees to meet if required to consider pupil discipline, staffing matters and appeals and complaints.

Governors attendance at meetings is good and a separate document on our school website details the attendance of individual governors at these meetings.</td></tr>
<tr><td>What we achieved in 2025/26</td><td>The Governing Body has fulfilled its statutory duties in terms of monitoring all areas of the school's work and offering support and challenge through the agreed agendas of each committee and full Governing Body meeting and governor monitoring visits. Minutes of Governing Body and Committee</td></tr>
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	meetings are public documents –you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings. The Governor Action Plan which is linked to the school development plan was reviewed and used to support the Headteacher and all of the staff in our joint mission of bringing the two schools closer together. The school improvement plan remains a termly agenda item on all committees and progress is reported to Governors through the Headteacher's report each term In 2025/26 Governors supported the Headteacher's move to an Executive Head role across both Prettygate Schools and Gosbecks Primary School, assisting in forming a 'soft' federation between the schools. This also involved supporting the school in strengthening and restructuring the senior leadership team (SLT). The key priorities for the 26/27 plan are to continue to develop the opportunities to bring about closer links to all schools within the 'soft' federation. The Governors will support the senior leadership team in its focus on outcomes for all pupils, with particular emphasis supporting behaviour and quality of teaching. We have continued to support the Executive Head and SLT in decisions to ensure the quality of teaching at our schools is of the highest standard and children are achieving their full potential. Pupil progress was monitored across both schools with termly data reports from assessment leads along with discussions on how pupil progress meetings feed into assessment and how teachers look carefully at not just data but the whole child and the needs of individuals. Governors continued to monitor inclusion across both schools and received regular reports from the Schools' SENCO on provision and progress for children with special educational needs including provision for transgender pupils. Safeguarding remains a termly agenda item to ensure that our safeguarding procedures are robust and to the highest standards and that all staff and Governors are fully aware of their responsibilities for inclusion and under the PREVENT regulations. All statutory policies have been reviewed to ensure compliance and most school policies have now been amalgamated across both schools to ensure consistency. The Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee continued to monitor the implementation and impact of Pupil Premium and Sports Premium funding together with schools facilities management and health and safety. They have ensured rigorous budget management and assurances of best value by receiving and analysing regular reports on school's income and expenditure presented at termly committee meetings. The Schools Financial Values Standards audit, monitored by the Chair of the committee, resulted in positive reports for both schools. Benchmarking exercises are regularly carried out to ensure good financial management. Reviews of the take up of school

	meals, before and after school club facilities take place regularly and both clubs have performed well and numbers continue to be positive. The Chair of Finance worked with the Headteacher, schools finance officers and consortium manager on setting budgets for both schools, which have improved with careful budget setting and targeting of key priorities. Personnel responsibilities included monitoring the implementation and review of key policies, as well as general staffing issues including staff well being which was addressed through well being surveys. The results of the surveys are shared with staff and used to help Governors in decision making which involves the working environment and stress management. The school have continued to drive the TPP initiative which ties in with the school ethos and the behaviour management policy. Health and safety monitoring takes place termly with the site manager and the school's facility manager through the North Essex Premises Group. The Pay Committee met to consider the recommendations made by the Executive Head in relation to teachers pay progression as a result of the completion of the performance management cycle. The Chair of Personnel monitored the performance management cycle for all staff including support staff. The Headteacher's performance management committee together with the appointed external advisor met its statutory obligations. Governors have moved their focus to subject lead responsibilities and have met with subject leads within the school, undertaking learning conversations to give a greater understanding of all subjects and closer liaison with staff. This has proved very successful and will continue in 26/27.
Future plans for governors in 26/27	The Governing Body will continue to work with the Headteacher to identify ways to engage the school community in the strategic vision for 2026/2027 and to improve communication at all levels. Governors and the schools will continue to prioritise the key aspects for any future Ofsted inspection, based on the findings from the previous report. The Governing Body will need to continue to monitor finances carefully as it is noted that funding sources are subject to future change. The school will focus on ensuring resilience in our budgets to address this uncertainty. Governors will continue to monitor the curriculum along with the priorities from the 2026/2027 School Improvement plan. The Governing Body will continue to take part in one to one trainings, mentoring, courses and CPD sessions. Thanks should be extended to all Governors who give freely of their time and expertise in moving the schools forward. If you are interested in joining us please see the contact details below.

How you can contact the Governing Body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Liz Humphries, via the school office or contact the Clerk to the Governing Body, Mrs Caroline Humphreys, via the school office or on c.humphreys@prettygateschools.co.uk.