

# Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of St Chad's Patchway CE VC Primary School

September 2025

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

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher 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	<p>The Governing Board of St Chad's Patchway CE VC Primary School, (following re-constitution in 2014) is now made up of 1 staff governor (not including the Headteacher), 2 Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 3 Foundation governors and 4 Co-opted governors, (we currently have 2 co-opted governor vacancies). Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Board, have the skills specifically and currently required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. Many of the co-opted governors are also either parents of children at the school or former pupils of the school albeit some come from the community. Our governors come from a diverse range of professional and vocational backgrounds who bring valued skills to the Governing Board.</p> <p>The Full Governing Board usually meets 4 times a year and we also have two committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. At St Chad's Primary we have a Pupils and Standards committee, which looks specifically at the provision for pupils and the standards they achieve, as well as other related aspects such as safeguarding and attendance; a Resources and Staffing Committee, which focuses on finance (including school budget), premises and some personnel matters. We also have smaller committees that are formed for specific functions throughout the year. Additionally, Governors have individual responsibilities for key aspects and subject monitoring to provide stronger links to the school and staff.</p>
Attendance and training record of governors	<p>Governors have a history of excellent attendance at meetings, and this year has been no different. This shows the commitment all governors have to their role and the school. Committee meetings moved online during the pandemic and remain virtual. This works well for shorter, focused meetings. However, FGB meet in person so that governors can maintain that all important face-to-face contact.</p> <p>Governors have, as always, also kept themselves updated by attending training, much of which takes place online - another legacy from the pandemic. Please see the appendix for details.</p>
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing board	<p><u>Preparation for the coming year</u></p> <p>Following the Ofsted visit last June (2024) where the school achieved a judgement of good (with outstanding judgements in both behaviour and attitudes and personal development) FGB and our committees have been pleased to celebrate the hard work that everyone has put into making St Chad's such an excellent school. You can read the judgement in full here <a href="#">St Chad's Patchway CoE Primary School - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted</a>. Since the inspection, we have all sought to support the school with embedding the new assessment scheme, a 'next steps' focus point pulled from Ofsted, as well as supporting SLT and the staff generally with building on their previous successes.</p>

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Our last SIAMS inspection was in 2020 at which time St Chad's achieved the top 'excellent' judgement, which is extremely hard to attain under the new, rigorous assessment regime. It is unclear when the next SIAMS review will take place but this may be in the academic year 2025-2026 or beyond.

## Finance

This continues to be challenging. As was reported last year, budgeting constraints due to reductions in LA and central government funding continue to impact all schools and St Chad's is no exception. SEND funding cuts and the grading process for SEND support means that making appropriate provision for every member of our cohort is extremely challenging. However, as recognised by Ofsted during their last visit, careful management of the school budget by the school and R&S committee and exceptional skill on the part of the staff and SENCO means every individual child is supported in the most appropriate way. This includes altering education provision, learning environments and staff allocation and deployment in school to address each child's specific needs as well as liaising carefully and tirelessly with parents and external agencies to find the right support for every child. It's a huge credit to the school that they are so highly regarded in the community for SEND provision. However, despite the new Government, there has been no additional funding made available yet to compensate for many years of budget cuts.

The Governing Board continue to work with the school in challenging this by writing to the LA and local MPs. In the meantime, we continue to support the school in making difficult financial decisions in order to ensure that every child can still access every aspect of their primary education. Once again, the extremely hard work of the staff and their creative solutions have made the Governing Board's support role far easier than it would otherwise have been and the staff of St Chad's are to be credited for this. Where possible, governors support the school in applying for grants and bidding for additional funding by adding our voice to applications. St Chad's have been successful this year in securing substantial grants to help adapt the school buildings to best support our children.

The part-time business manager continues to support the school, SLT and the office team in making every penny count! Governors have supported the school in selecting cost-effective catering provision with the SBM's guidance and in making prudent, tough financial decisions to best ride the storm that is currently battering education funding.

## Learning

The school curriculum based on sound pedagogy continues to develop organically. Staff continue to strive to provide the very best education for all children. The links with the Bridge schools for staff means staff are supported by 'subject leads' across the schools and can share ideas and best practice effectively. Governors continue to support the Bridge links through the Steering Group, chaired by our Chair of Governors. This link continues to be positive for St Chad's.

There were no Year 2 SATs this year (nationally) and Year 6 SATs results have not been finalised at the time of writing. The introduction of Arbor assessment schemes last year is now more embedded, and staff are using this well with more work to follow to get the most out of this. Governors can see, from their monitoring and in meetings, how this is saving staff work when reviewing pupil

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progress and how it makes them more agile in planning lessons etc.

## Monitoring

This year, members of the Governing Board have been able to attend many different events in school. This has included EYFS parent's information evenings, curriculum evenings, SEND and safeguarding training events and school assemblies, Year 6 leavers assemblies, sports day, the summer fayre and Harvest Festival as well as events in St Chad's Church like the Christmas carol service. This promotes strong links with the wider school community and supports the school.

In school governor monitoring have also kept us busy this year including link governor meetings with teacher subject leads, learning walks, book looks, pupil conferencing and collective worship and SEND reviews. Our foundation governors work well with Reverend David Brae who has been an asset to the school since joining approximately 18 months ago. He has already ensured St Chad's are working closely with the church and the diocese and has established other links with the wider church meaning St Chad's has benefited from additional staff and funding. The governors are grateful to Reverend Dave for spotlighting St Chad's in this way and supporting us.

Governors have also attended safeguarding training to ensure they are all up to date on this important aspect and been in attendance at LA reviews and budget reviews to support the school.

## School Improvement and The Bridge Collaboration

School improvement is always a focus, and the Governing Board regularly review the School Development Plan and the school curriculum to ensure the strategy of targets and foci are appropriate, measured and measurable. Also, to check progress towards those targets. Our SDP aligns with the other schools in the Bridge Family which has meant work towards SDP targets is shared across the schools and collaborative practices benefit the staff and pupils alike. Poetry and sports competitions as well and STEM days have taken place/are planned showing how the schools work well together for the benefit of the pupils. Since the change in focus of the government meaning there is no urgency to create a formal academy, we have adapted the focus of the Bridge. Governors continue to support the work of the Bridge through the Steering Group but the focus is entirely on school improvement and sharing of knowledge/best practice rather than trying to academise/recruit new schools to the Bridge as was initially the plan. The interim leadership team of the Bridge has adjusted to account for the narrower parameters of required work with only the Strategic Lead now officially in post (supported informally by the other heads) and with their hours reducing to reflect the change (saving money for St Chad's without compromising the positive impact the membership of the Bridge has on our school. Governors have questioned, challenged and continue to support the Bridge 'partnership' as we can see that this is of great support for SLT at St Chad's and all staff.

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## Committees

The work of our long-standing committees continues to support the school as follows:

### The Resources and Staffing Committee

The Resource & Staffing Committee has continued to work closely with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team throughout the 2024–2025 academic year to support the strategic and operational management of the school's resources, staffing, and financial planning.

This year has presented a number of significant financial and staffing challenges. Like many schools across the country, St Chad's has been impacted by continued inflationary pressures affecting key suppliers. With government grants not fully covering the national teacher pay rises, additional strain has been placed on the budget. The school has also continued to experience low pupil numbers, particularly in KS1, which further limits income and requires prudent financial management to maintain our desired education standards.

Another considerable challenge has been the increasing level of Special Educational Needs (SEN) within the school, much of which is currently unfunded due to the lack of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for some pupils. The committee and school has worked to ensure that, despite this shortfall, resources are allocated as effectively as possible to support all learners.

Despite budget pressures, the Local Authority has recognised the school's proactive and responsible approach in navigating these pressures. A revised financial plan has been submitted to the LA and is under review, a similar process took place in the previous academic year. The committee is confident that the school is doing all it can to operate sustainably and maintain a high-quality educational environment in difficult circumstances.

On staffing, the school will see the departure of the Deputy Headteacher at the end of the 2024–25 academic year. In response, a dual leadership arrangement has been put in place, with Mrs Ives and Miss Legg stepping into the role jointly. The committee would like to extend its thanks to Mr Ridd for his contribution to the school and welcomes our new deputy heads into their roles.

We remain committed to ensuring that St Chad's continues to provide a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment for all children, and we thank the staff for their dedication and resilience during another challenging year.

### The Pupils and Standards Committee's

This year has been a positive one for the Pupils and Standards Committee. With the addition of new members, our meetings have been enriched with fresh perspectives, lively discussion, and an even stronger sense of accountability. The committee has worked together with real commitment, ensuring that the review of pupil progress, attainment, and wellbeing continues to be thorough and effective.

Our monitoring of teaching and learning standards has shown that pupils at St Chad's are receiving a high-quality education which

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meets their academic needs while also supporting their social, emotional, and physical development. Attendance, which we know is such an important factor in pupil achievement, remains a key focus, with clear policies in place to promote and sustain good attendance across the school.

The committee has also kept a close watch on safeguarding, wellbeing, and provision for pupils with special educational needs and vulnerable groups, ensuring that the school's ethos of inclusivity is lived out in practice. Governors have found the data review particularly valuable, as they give a clear picture of pupil outcomes and the impact of the school's strategies.

The continued support and openness of Steph, and her leadership team has been central to the committee's work. Steph's commitment, resilience, and determination to lead the school with integrity — even in the face of challenges — are an inspiration to both staff and governors. Her leadership ensures that St Chad's pupils remain at the heart of every decision.

It is clear that St Chad's continues to place pupils first, ensuring that they not only achieve academically but also thrive as confident, well-rounded individuals. Despite the inevitable challenges faced, the school's commitment to high standards and pupil wellbeing remains unwavering.

Looking ahead, the committee is excited to continue building on this year's progress. With strong teamwork between governors, staff, and leadership, we are confident that St Chad's will continue to flourish. Guided by the school's vision of "*learning to love, loving to learn*", we remain committed to supporting every pupil so that they can achieve their full potential in a nurturing and inspiring environment.

## Strategic reviews

This year, FGB have continued to support St Chad's and the SLT through the review and approval of key policies, holding of FGB and committee meetings, attendance at Local Authority, SEND and budget reviews and EYFS strategy meetings and reviewing and approving risk assessments at various stages of the academic year. Safeguarding and health and safety checks by FGB have taken place in school as required as usual within government guidelines.

Through virtual and face to face meetings, email discussions and staff support, the Governing Board has continued to not only support the school, but also challenge the Headteacher, SLT and staff to ensure that the children benefit in all aspects of school life. Ensuring the very best educational journey for every single child at St Chad's remains the driving force behind the Governing Board in all that they do. We are all passionate about ensuring every child's educational, social, moral and physical development and this drives the work of the Governing Board and is evident from the broad and rich curriculum offered by St Chad's.

The Governors' role includes the ongoing review and approval of school policies, and this year we have considered a number of key policies to ensure that they are topical and meet the necessary statutory requirements. We also continue to implement the Attendance

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	<p>Policy and to support the school in driving excellent attendance as an embedded ethos for the school given the clear links between strong attendance and good educational progress for children. In addition, given the changing landscape of school behaviour, the school's Behaviour and Wellbeing Policies have been reviewed by governors early to ensure they are fit for purpose and can be understood by all (especially the children) so that behaviour expectations and consequences are clear.</p> <p><u>Staffing and governors</u></p> <p>Staffing this year has seen some further changes. We sadly say goodbye to, Miss Woodman and Mrs Powell and our Deputy Head, James Ridd left at the end of the academic year to take on his own headship at another school. Mrs Ellett left on maternity leave and we wish her well with everything. They will all be much missed and the governors thank them all for their hard work whilst at St Chad's. We also welcomed Miss Hunter, Miss Preen and Emma Mounter as Teaching Assistant and welcomed back from maternity leave Mrs Pryce and Miss Lewis who will continue their teaching at St Chad's in reception this year. Mrs Pitt will take on the SENCO role following Mr Ridd's departure.</p> <p>FGB said goodbye to Suzie de Maillard who relocated abroad but welcomed new co-opted governor Chi Yung Cheung ('CY') to our team and have been shuffling governor responsibilities in readiness for the new academic year. We will also be recruiting to fill the 2 co-opted governor vacancies in due course to ensure the Governing Board has the desired expertise to ensure we are effective in our role in supporting the school.</p> <p>Please note that the minutes of the Governing Board and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings from across the year. You can also see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; and other information about what we do in the file in the office and available to inspect on request and in Appendix 1 below.</p>
Future plans for the governors	<p>As stated above, we currently have 2 co-opted vacancies and will be looking to recruit into these positions in the coming academic year. We are especially looking for people with finance and property experience but welcome applications from people from any background.</p> <p>Work with the Bridge schools will continue as described above. You can read more about this collaboration on the school website here <a href="#">The Bridge Family of Schools – St Chads Primary School</a></p> <p>Mrs Stephanie Jenkins continues to lead the school from strength to strength and her warmth and care for every child and staff member continues to set a shining example. We are lucky to have her. She will be ably assisted and supported by her SLT next year, Helen Ives (KS1) and Katherine Legg (KS2) following Mr Ridd's departure. The rest of SLT provide invaluable support and drive the direction of education for the school under Mrs Jenkins' expert leadership and the whole staff of St Chad's demonstrate daily the core values and aims of the school through their teaching and care of the pupils. The Governing Board continues to have every faith in the SLT and staff at St Chad's they will always do their very best for every child. We trust Mrs Jenkins' extremely sound judgement whilst still seeking support from the LA, colleagues and other outside agencies where appropriate. The Governing Board has supported and will continue to support the staff of St Chads and SLT with their day to day role by providing sounding boards for key decisions,</p>

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	<p>scrutinising, guiding and challenging choices made by Mrs Jenkins and her team.</p> <p>The part-time school business manager continues to support the school, and the team together work very well at providing the best possible environment in which all pupils can thrive. The Governing Board is ready to continue their support of the school in September to ensure that the existing high standards currently demonstrated at St Chad's are sustained and further developed moving forward.</p>
A note to parents from governors	<p>We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that, if you are entitled to register for Pupil Premium (sometimes known as Free School Meals, even though it is much more) you are urged to register. This will open up a whole range of benefits for your child to support them in a wide range of areas in school. We have agreed that each registered child will be granted £100 to spend during their time at St Chad's, to be used for education purposes i.e. uniforms, school trips etc. You can find more information on the 'Pupil Premium' tab underneath 'About us' on the home page of the school website.</p> <p>Finally, we would ask that each and every parent supports their children to attend school every day (unless illness or exceptional circumstances prevent attendance). This is so important not only for their educational development but also their social and emotional development and wellbeing. As we approach September, we would all ask that you encourage your children's love of school and governors and staff at St Chad's will continue to do everything in our power to ensure that the richness of the curriculum being taught, the vibrant learning environments and the sense of community within the school fosters that enjoyment of being a St Chad's child.</p>
How you can contact the Governing Board	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Becky Moyce in writing via the school office or by email at <a href="mailto:admin@stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk">admin@stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk</a>. If you are interested in joining FGB then you can also express your interest using this email.</p>

The Governing Board is running efficiently. In turn the teaching and the outcomes for pupils have continued to improve and we are confident that moving forward, St Chad's can produce results which will be securely above the national and local authority averages. We are proud of the education we provide here at St Chad's and we will do everything in our power to continue to build on our successes to create an even better school. We thank you for your support along the way.

I also thank all the governors for their continuing hard work and the support that they have given the school (and me) over the last year and for the time they give up to ensure the success of St Chad's and every child.

If there are any queries you have after reading this report, please contact me in the ways described above.

Wishing you all well for the academic year.

Becky Moyce, Chair of Governors.

On behalf of the Governing Board

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Name	Category of Governor	Appointed By	Term of Office Ends	Position & Responsibilities	Committee *	Pecuniary Interest	Meeting Attendances	Governor Training
<p>* FGB = Full Governing Board, PS = Pupils and Standards Committee, RS = Resources and Staffing Committee, SMG = Strategic Monitoring Group</p> <p>Governors can attend and observe all committee meetings</p>								
Mr Kudakwashe Makombe	Foundation	Governing Board	07/05/29	Skills audits, Assist LA with Maths Monitoring	FGB, R&S	Parent	See meeting attendance log	See separate training record
Mrs Laura Ash	Co-opted	Governing Board	02/02/29	Maths link governor, Budget/Finance Pupil Premium (Finances)	FGB, Chair of R&S	Parent	See meeting attendance log	See separate training record
Mrs Liz Merritt	Co-opted	Governing Board	02/10/26	Co-Vice Chair of Governors, Child Protection/Children in Care, Safeguarding, GDPR, Staff Recruitment	FGB, P&S	Parent	See meeting attendance log	See separate training record
Mrs Shirin Borgall	Foundation	Governing Board	15/01/27	SIAMS etc (with Rev Dave Brae); EYFS Share; mini Bridge committee,	FGB, Chair of P&S, Bridge	Past parent	See meeting attendance log	See separate training record
Mr Stewart Mockridge	Parent	Governing Board	08/05/27	EYFS, Sustainability in Schools, Impact of collective worship, RE, PE Share	P&S	Parent	See meeting attendance log	See separate training record
Mrs Kate Kelly	LA Governor	LEA Appointment	03/07/27	LA Governor, SEND, PE, Co-Vice Chair	FGB, P&S	Past Parent	See meeting attendance log	See separate training record
Mrs Charlie (Charlotte) Cowley	Parent	School Parents	06/05/28	Health & Safety, Attendance, Website Monitoring, Wellbeing, Policies, Mini Bridge committee	FGB, P&S & R&S	Parent	See meeting attendance log	See separate training record
Chi Yung Cheung	Co-opted	FGB	05/05/29		P&S & R&S		See meeting attendance log	See separate training record
Mrs Rebecca Moyce	Co-opted	Governing Board	04/02/28	Chair of Governors, English link, Bridge Steering Group, Chair and link governor, Learning Walks, Pupil Premium (Impact, Mini Bridge Committee	FGB, Bridge	Past parent	See meeting attendance log	See separate training record
Miss Katherine Legg	Staff Governor	By Position	03/07/27	Deputy Head (KS2)	FGB	Member of staff	See meeting attendance log	Various school training

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* FGB = Full Governing Board, PS = Pupils and Standards Committee, RS = Resources and Staffing Committee, SMG = Strategic Monitoring Group								Governors can attend and observe all committee meetings
Mrs Steph Jenkins	Associate Non-voting	By Position	-	Headteacher	FGB	Member of Staff	See meeting attendance log	Various school training
Helen Ives	Associate non-voting	FGB	-	Deputy Head (KS1)	FGB	Member of staff	See meeting attendance log	Various school training
Rev Dave Brae	Foundation	By Position	Ex Officio	Religious Education / Daily Worship / Spirituality / SIAMS HT Performance Management Mathematics	FGB		See meeting attendance log	See separate training record

There are currently 2 Co-opted governor vacancies

### St Chad's Primary School, Patchway Meeting Attendance Log

		Becky Moyce (Chair)	Liz Merritt (Vice-Chair)	Katherine Legg	Charlie (Charlotte) Cowley	James Ridd	Stephanie Jenkins (Head)	Laura Ash (R&S Chair)	Julia Shield (Clerk)	Kate Kelly	Kudakwashe Makombe	Shirin Borgall (P&S Chair)	Rev Dave Brae	Stewart Mockridge	Susie De Maillard	Chi Yung Cheung (CY)	
<b>2024/25</b>																	
8Oct24	FGB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗ (ill)	✓	✓	✓		
11Nov24	P&S (virtual)		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓		Left Oct24	
12Nov24	R&S (virtual)				✓		✓		✓		✓				✗		
17Jan25	R&S (virtual)				✓		✓		✓		✓				✓		
28Jan25	FGB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓			
17Mar25	P&S (virtual)		✗		✓		✓		✗	✓		✓		✓			
18Mar25	R&S (virtual)				✓		✓		✗		✓			✓		Joined May25	
6May25	FGB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
1Jul25	AGM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓		✓	

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## **Governor expenses**

**Total Claim for period = £0.00**

Diocese Training £0.00  
Refreshments for Governor meetings £0.00  
Stationery and Admin £0.00