

**Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Board (LGB)  
of Astley Primary School  
November 2025**

**The Local Governing Body of Astley Primary School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:**

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, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

**Core Aims**

**In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the core aims of the Local Governing Board are to:-**

- provide a sense of direction for the work of the school
- support the work of the school as a lay joint partner
- to provide challenge to the school for the quality of the education (including teaching and learning) it provides and the standards achieved
- to follow the scheme of delegation in liaison with the Synergy Trust

**Governance Arrangements**

As from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 the constitution of the Local Governing Board of Astley consists of:-

**12 Governors** made up of :-

- 3 Parent Governors** (x1 Parent Governor Vacancy)
- 2 Staff Governors** (including the Head teacher)
- 7 Trust Appointed Governors** (x3 Trust Governor vacancies)

In addition we have also appointed:-

Synergy Trust maintains control over finance, staffing and premises but has delegated many areas to LGB's which include election of governors and oversight of teaching and learning.

The LGB meets every half term. All business is transacted through the LGB where all major decisions are agreed. However, individual governors take on specific roles that cover both the statutory requirements and other areas that the governors have agreed should be monitored, which include:

- Safeguarding**
- Health and Safety**
- SEND**
- Premises**

## Curriculum

We also have Governors who meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

## Governors Terms of Office / Roles 2023-2024

	Current Serving Governors	Term of Office	Role	Governor Appointment
1	Jen Goakes	Ex-Officio	Staff	Head teacher
2	Graham Pickhaver	17/07/25 – 16/07/29	Chair	Trust Appointed
3	Jodie Blaker	30/10/23 – 29/10/27		Parent Governor
	Freya Anderson	23/09/25 – 22/09/29	Staff	Staff Governor
	Helen Pegg	02/02/24 – 01/02/28	Vice Chair	Trust Appointed
4	Claire Newstead	11/11/22 – 10/11/26		Trust Appointed
5	Katie Andrews	03/02/24 – 02/02/28		Trust Appointed
6	Maria Hodge	05/03/25 – 04/03/29		Parent Governor
7	Vacancy			Parent Governor
9	Vacancy			Parent Governor
10	Vacancy			Trust Governor
11	Vacancy			Trust Governor
12	Vacancy			Trust Governor
1	Alannah Nash	18 /07/21 – 17/07/25		Associate Governor
	Governors serving in the last 12 months	Term of Office	Role	Governor Appointment
1	Sarah Warricker Karen Cornish	Resigned End of term		Parent Governor Parent Governor

## Attendance Record of Governors 2023 / 24

Governors	Percentage Attendance
Jen Goakes	100.00%
Graham Pickhaver	100.00%
Freya Anderson	100.00%
Karen Cornish	50.00%
Sarah Warricker	17.00%
Helen Pegg	50.00%
Claire Newstead	66.00%
Katie Andrews	83.00%
Jodie Blaker	83.00%
Cat Peacock	100.00%
Maria Hodge	50.00%

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and have never cancelled a meeting because it was not 'quorate' (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).

## The work that we have done on our

We do not use the committee system that deals with major areas of school life but governors cover both statutory and non-statutory areas

**committees and in the governing body**

of school life. We have found that linking governors to classes works in the best interest of staff and pupils as governors' get to know a class and its teacher on a long term basis. Our principle of working as a LGB is based on achieving the greater amount of work in the minimum amount of time as everyone has very busy lives. All governors are able to report back to the LGB at any time and contribute to all discussion and decisions made. They also are able to ask for an agenda item to be included at any meeting. Deep Dive Days continue to work well with the majority of governors present for either part or whole day. We continue to focus on key issues and enjoy interaction with staff and pupils. Safeguarding has been regularly and accurately followed by our Governor responsible for Safeguarding. Subject-lead staff continue to attend and provide a brief overview of their subject at regular LGB meetings.

The Governing Body has continued to be actively involved in monitoring school improvement and the development of the school premises

Governors have also regularly discussed data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its targets for all pupils. We are also concerned about our 'vulnerable groups' of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium fund is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their achievement. A nominated Governor is responsible for this area.

A summary of the school's results can be found on the website.

Governors visit the school on various occasions and at specific events. With other parents they often support class visits with some actively involved in Astley Friends. The Chair continues to attend weekly SLT meetings and consults with the Head teacher on a regular basis. The Chair also attends termly meetings of all other Trust chairs where common issues are raised.

Governors note the receipt of policies approved by the Trust and where appropriate local information is added.

The pupil admission number remains at 30

Although the LGB is no longer responsible for finance the LGB continues to receive reports on the financial status of the school.

Minutes of LGB meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the Governors' page of our website or you can ask at the office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

Individual Governor Responsibilities	Responsibility	Governor(s)	Staff Link
	Premises and Health and Safety	Graham Pickhaver	HT / Mark Thorogood
Staffing issues including Appraisals	Graham Pickhaver	HT	
<b>Class Governors:-</b>			
<b>Bears</b>	Claire Newstead	Emma Harrold	
<b>Lions</b>	Graham Pickhaver	Josh Dart	
<b>Tigers</b>	Graham Pickhaver	India Borley	
<b>Turtles</b>	Katie Andrews	Heidi Tinker	
<b>Dolphins</b>	Jodie Blaker	Kelly Hamilton	
<b>Penguins</b>	Maria Hodge	Jessica Edgeley	
<b>Sharks</b>	Helen Pegg	Lilly Wreford	
Website Overview / Audit	Jodie Blaker	Lilly Wreford C Lord / Head teacher	
Finance	Katie Andrews	HT	
Pupil and Sport Premium	Maria Hodge	HT	
HT Performance (2)	Graham Pickhaver Rob Bellow	HT / CEO	
SIDP	All	HT	
SEF	All	HT	
Safeguarding GDPR	Helen Pegg Graham Pickhaver	HT HT	
SEND and Looked After Children	Maria Hodge	FA	
Parent Links	Jodie Blaker	HT	
Well-being	Claire Newstead	Lilly Wreford	
<b>Future plans for the Governors</b>	Like any school a School Development & Improvement Plan (SIDP) is in place and rather than the LGB compiling its own action plan specific		

	<p>governance targets are included in the school's SIDP, these include, achieving 100% membership of the LGB; on-going development of the Deep Dive Days; regular review of skill audit to make sure key areas such as finance and premises have governors with the appropriate skills and experience; identifying governors' training needs; observation and monitoring of the recently introduced Cornerstones Curriculum, and developing further community links.</p> <p>The LGB regularly receives updates of the SIDP and the SEF.</p>
<p><b>How you can contact the governing body</b></p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors via the school website contact form. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; minutes of the governing body meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.</p>