Governing Body Annual Statement 2026-2027

As a Governing Body, we are committed to ensuring that every child is happy, safe, valued and supported to reach their full potential. We want our children to develop a love of learning, grow in confidence and thrive in a caring and inspiring environment, supported by skilled, enthusiastic and well-led staff. As an Ofsted-rated 'Good' school, we are proud of our achievements and remain ambitious in our commitment to providing the very best for every child.

The Governing Body is made up as follows:

- Headteacher
- One Local Authority Governor (**current vacancy**)
- One Parent Governor (**current vacancy**)
- One Staff Governor
- Four Co-opted Governors

Our governors bring a wide range of experience and expertise to the school. This helps to ensure that the school continues to move forward, maintaining and raising standards in line with its ethos and vision**.**

Further information about our governors, including membership, committee structure and attendance, can be found on the school website. Parents and carers are always welcome to share their views and feedback with the school. The Chair of Governors, Mrs Charles, can also be contacted via the school office.

The Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has three core strategic functions which underpin our work. At Carterhatch Infant School, we carry out these responsibilities with the happiness, wellbeing, development and achievement of every child at the heart of our decisions.

1. Ensuring Clarity of Vision, Ethos and Strategic Direction

Governors work closely with the headteacher and senior leadership team to shape and review the school's vision, values and strategic priorities. We want Carterhatch to be a place where children feel happy, safe and valued, develop a love of learning and are given the very best start to their education.

We do this through:

- Full Governing Body and committee meetings.
- Regular visits to school.
- Governor monitoring activities.
- An annual strategic planning day.

These opportunities help governors understand what is working well, identify areas for further development and monitor progress towards the school's key priorities.

2. Holding School Leaders to Account for Educational Performance

Governors have an important role in both supporting and challenging school leaders to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

We do this through:

- Reviewing information about children's attainment, progress and attendance.
- Discussing the quality of education with school leaders.
- Monitoring the progress and outcomes of children with barriers to learning and/or additional vulnerabilities**.**
- Undertaking governor visits and learning walks.
- Monitoring progress against the School Development Plan.

Our Curriculum Committee receives reports and presentations from the senior leadership team and middle leaders, helping governors to understand how the curriculum is developing, celebrate strengths and identify areas for further improvement.

Governor visits provide valuable opportunities to see children learning, talk to staff and children, and understand the impact of the school's priorities on children's learning, development and wellbeing.

We regularly review policies and procedures to ensure they reflect the school's values, meet statutory requirements and support the needs of our children and families.

Governors also contribute to the Headteacher's performance management process, ensuring that leadership remains focused on providing the very best education and experiences for every child.

3. Overseeing the Financial Performance of the School

Governors are responsible for ensuring that the school's funding and resources are managed carefully and used effectively to support our children.
Working closely with school leaders, governors:

- Monitor the school's budget and financial position.
- Consider spending decisions alongside the priorities in the School Development Plan.
- Ensure resources are directed towards areas where they can have the greatest impact on children.
- Review staffing structures and the effective use of resources.
- Monitor additional funding streams, where applicable.

Governors also undertake monitoring in areas including health and safety, safeguarding and financial management, working alongside members of the leadership team to help ensure that the school remains safe, well managed and focused on the needs of its children.

Looking Forward

As a Governing Body, we are proud of Carterhatch Infant School and remain ambitious for its future. We will continue to support and challenge the school, ensuring that the **happiness, wellbeing and success of every child remain at the heart of our decisions**. By working together with staff, children, parents and carers, we will continue to give every child **the very best start to their education**.