

# Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation and Nursery

## Annual Statement of Governance 2024-25

### Our Vision and Values

Everything that we do in the federation is driven by our vision and values of honesty, kindness, respect and perseverance. At Newington our core Christian values are welcoming, generous, forgiving and flourishing.

We are a learning community working to make a difference to children's lives

Our schools are happy, vibrant, well cared for places where everyone is welcome.

We show good manners and **honesty** and treat each other with **respect** and **kindness**.

We work in collaboration to nurture growth and independence.

High expectations are the norm and we **persevere** to become the best we can be.

At **Newington** our 4 Christian values of being **welcoming, generous, forgiving** and **flourishing** are reflected in our everyday actions and decision making at all levels.

### Governing Board organisation

The Governing Body is made up of a group of committed volunteers who bring a range of skills and expertise and come from a variety of backgrounds. Governors are committed to improving the education of every child in our schools and invest a huge amount of good will, hard work and time.

The Governing Board comprises 14 governors:

- 1 Local Authority Governor appointed by the Local Authority.
- 3 Staff Governors (including EHT) appointed by ballot of the staff.
- 2 Foundation Governors appointed by Canterbury Diocese.
- 4 Co-opted Governors appointed by the Governing Board based on skills.
- 2 Parent Governors appointed by ballot of the parents/carers at the school.
- 2 associate governors with no voting rights (Heads of School)

During 2024-25, the Board operated a Committee Model (see below for further details)

#### Changes during 2024-25 Academic Year

##### **Leavers**

Co-opted governor

##### **Joiners**

Co-opted governor

	<p>There were no vacancies in July 2025</p> <p>The Full Governor Board (FBG) met four times during the year. The initial business meeting in September is used to ratify policies and set out the scope of the work of governors during the year and agree areas of responsibility and the monitoring schedule.</p> <p>Governors were recruited to match the skills gaps identified to provide effective governance of the school. Regular consideration is given to ensure sufficient coverage of the required skills.</p> <p>The Governing Board fully supports training and development and accesses local authority training via Governorhub.</p> <p>In fulfilling its functions, the Governing Body delegates specific work to its committees. The purpose of committees is to ensure that the effective governance of the school can be achieved in the most efficient and effective way possible. Committee Chairs report back to the Full Governing Body on the work of their committee on a termly basis.</p> <p>In addition to the meetings, Governors were assigned to monitor Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs &amp; Disability, Collective Worship, Health &amp; Safety, Pupil Premium, Sports Funding, Early Years, behaviour, attendance and Personal Development &amp; Wellbeing of staff and pupils, all of which are underpinned at Newington by its Christian Ethos.</p>
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<p><b>Attendance record for 2024-25</b></p>	<p>The attendance record for governors for the academic year 2024-25 is at Appendix A.</p>
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<p><b>Work that governors have done during the last academic year (2024 - 2025)</b></p>	<p>Leadership and management:</p> <p>Governance monitoring, through Committee meetings and through visits to school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial training and full monitoring of safeguarding throughout the year with a linked governors for Safeguarding</li> <li>• Reviewing, challenging, and focusing on the progress and attainment of all our pupils, but especially those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, to ensure that measures are in place which are maximising their opportunities to learn and make progress, thereby supporting the achievement of the best possible outcomes – academic and developmental.</li> <li>• Conducting monitoring visits throughout the year focusing on priorities agreed in the School Improvement Plan under the Ofsted headings.</li> <li>• Monitoring staff and pupil wellbeing throughout year as part of monitoring visits and FGB meetings.</li> <li>• Governors ensured financial probity in monitoring and scrutinising budgets during the year.</li> <li>• Reviewing Three Year Budget to ensure ongoing financial health of the schools.</li> <li>• Meeting with Ofsted Inspectors during both inspections at the schools.</li> </ul> <p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governors attended a range of events throughout the year dependent on availability.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Assessment of impact of the Governing Board</b></p>	<p>The impact of the work undertaken by the Governing Board is that: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders feel well supported with challenge provided in a robust but positive manner.</li> <li>• Individual areas of focus continue to improve, with curriculum developments a particular strength.</li> <li>• The five year strategic plan continues to be successful with positive outcomes in the focus areas.</li> <li>• Able to triangulate Ofsted’s positive view of school leadership through contributing during inspection.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Future plans for Governors</b></p>	<p>Governors to oversee implementation of the Five Year Strategic Plan and continue to monitor the School Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Consider leadership options going forward to ensure that senior leaders have a wide range of opportunities and the schools can continue to improve and grow, focusing on building talent within the school.</p>
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