



Annual Governance Statement 2023

Mission Statement:

At Claypool everyone is valued, inspired, and nurtured on their individual journey of success.

Governing Body Membership:

The Board of Governors is made up of 14 members. 4 Parent Governors appointed by ballot by people with parental responsibility for a pupil at the school; 1 Local Authority Governor recommended by the Local Authority but appointed by the board; 1 Staff Governor appointed by ballot by staff at the school; 1 Head Teacher who is ex-officio and 7 Co-opted Governors appointed by the Governing Board based on skills and expertise.

Board meetings are clerked by Susan Mellor from Bolton Governor Services and Human Resource Committee is clerked by a member of their team when available. Curriculum and Inclusion and Buildings and Finance committee meetings are clerked by Mrs Debra Nevins. Policy Committee clerk their own meeting.

	<i>Representation</i>	<i>Office Ends</i>	<i>Special Responsibilities</i>
Mrs Elaine Gilmore Chair	Co-opted	January 2027	- Performance Review and Pay Review - Safer Recruitment - Safeguarding and Child Protection - Year 5 Class Governor - Science
Mrs Beulah Chadwick Vice Chair	Parent	April 2025	- Partnership - Year 4 Class Governor - Pupil Voice
Mrs Sharon Stevenson	Co-opted	March 2025	- Training - Chair of Human Resources - Chair of Policy - Performance Review and Pay Review - Safer Recruitment - Design and Technology - Y1 Class Governor
Mrs Amanda Hulme Head Teacher	Ex-Officio	_____	Safer Recruitment
Mrs Jo Malone	Local Authority	March 2025	- Website Compliance - Year 6C Class Governor - Humanities - Beliefs and Values
Vacant	Co-opted		The Arts
Mrs Sarah Worden	Co-opted	January 2027	
Vacant	Co-opted		- GDPR - Health and Safety - Computing - Performance Review - Chair of Buildings and Finance
Mrs Jessica Evans	Staff	May 2025	
Mr Peter Dunn	Parent	May 2027	
Mrs Emma Fisher	Co-opted	March 2027	- SEN, Mental Well-Being, and Inclusion - English and Modern Foreign Languages - Y2 Class Governor
Mrs Lydia Gibbons	Parent	June 2026	- Year 6S Class Governor - PE and Sports Premium
Mrs Julie Dawson	Parent	March 2027	- Year 3 Class Governor - Mathematics
Mr Colin Myers	Co-opted	November 2023	- Chair of Curriculum and Inclusion - Disadvantaged Pupils and CLA - Foundation Class Governor

The Governor's role is to provide support and challenge to the Head Teacher to continually improve Claypool and provide the best education for every child. We have 3 core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The Annual Governance Statement is one way for us to share our impact on school improvement with all members of the Claypool family and the wider community.

The Work of the Governing Board this year

Ever since the global pandemic, challenges and instabilities in education have been extensive and ever changing. Our job has continued to be ensuring we are fully informed and responsive to guide Claypool through these challenging times. Our class visits have focussed on the pastoral support for all children to ensure consistency of approach across school. We have supported school with many staffing difficulties due to sickness, maternity leave, and personal circumstance, doing our best to make decisions which protect the excellent provision you expect for your children. The financial situation has needed careful monitoring in the present economic climate, with huge rises in utility bills and other expenditure impacting on school budget. We have worked hard to help Claypool withstand these pressures and preserve the quality of education and support that our children deserve.

Our subject specific visits later this term will look at the skills and knowledge of subject leaders to check that they are confident in their roles and can ensure that children achieve at least the end of year expectations.

Examples of the impact of our meetings, visits and support this year include:

Decision Making

- Carefully considering with great responsibility and conscientiousness, and subsequently approving commitment to bidding for a new Resource Provision for the school using meticulous and in-depth support and challenge to assess the impact and success of a Resource Provision to be established within the school.
- Through visioning and clear planning, the school was confident to apply and successfully granted funding to become the first Severe Learning Difficulties and Autism primary provision within the Local Authority. Further support now continues in the design of the classroom, staffing and appropriate resources, for a start date, September 2023. This is a very exciting development which governors have assisted with throughout the planning process, and we look forward to seeing how it will enhance our commitment to inclusion and benefit all the Claypool Family.
- Governors with specific expertise have been able to offer specialist and valuable support in setting up the Resource Provision.
- Due to financial constraints on the school, we decided not to go through the Governor Mark process as it would save £1000 that could be delegated elsewhere. However, we did carry out our own effectiveness review and may look to reapply now finances are more stable.
- In the financial year school leaders and governors have worked hard to ensure the school remains financially stable. It was predicted that within the year most of the school's reserves would be utilised. However, by reducing costs to school repairs/maintenance, and electricity fees being lower than budgeted, the school has been able to carry forward a figure consistent with previous years.

Developing The Team

- We have had several losses and gains to the board and need to rebuild aspects of the team. One of the great strengths of the Governing Body is that when vacancies occur, time is taken to appoint the right person, to ensure that it has a broad and varied skills base, to support the school effectively. Emma Corless, Hayley Eckersley, Wendy Holland, Kate Youngman, and Danny Pilling have moved on due to personal circumstance after some long service, leaving several jobs to be reallocated and skills to be replaced. There is a wealth of experience and expertise remaining that will help us to do this, but it will be a challenge, nevertheless. We thank them all for everything they have done on behalf of the Claypool family. Lydia Gibbons, Julie Dawson, and Peter Dunn have joined the board, leaving 2 co-opted vacancies at the time of writing this report. 2023-2024 will be a time of rebuilding, recruiting, and embedding newer members to the team.

Monitoring

- Conducting class monitoring visits have proven how the development and learning of the children is key and how the school's values are at the heart of this. Inclusion is shown in the learning methods and the dedication of the teaching staff. Governors have been able to identify and confirm excellent development within the first Whole School Priority, 'To further develop the pastoral support for all children to ensure consistency of approach across school.'
- Visits also showed that there is a consistent approach to behaviour across school leading to improved standards. School is settled in most classes, and this is due to the positive ethos from all staff. There are no hidden areas of concern; any areas of concern are identified, and strategies are put in place. It has also been evidenced that children perceive inclusion in a very positive way. Different children have different things expected of them, but children understand why this happens.
- It has been difficult to monitor Subject Leadership progress due to the unfortunate year of sickness absence placing additional pressures on teacher time. Visits to be conducted later this half term will help inform us of this and what still needs to be done.
- Continuing to monitor attendance carefully, receiving regular detailed reports and supporting the school as they continue to try to restore regular attendance to pre covid levels.

We look forward to the coming year excited about the Resource Provision opening, but mindful of addressing all ongoing needs. Ensuring the Governing Board is as strong as it can be will be an important focus going forwards so that we can continue to offer the support and challenge needed in all 2023-24 may present.

If you wish to access further information about our work, you can find minutes of Governing Body meetings on the school website and by request from the school office.

Elaine Gilmore
Chair of Governors