



Annual Governance Statement 2024

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 Sabiha Umarji from Bolton Governor Services; Human Resource Committee and Policy Committee are clerked by a member of the committee. Curriculum and Inclusion and Buildings and Finance committee meetings are clerked by Mrs Debra Nevins.

	<i>Representation</i>	<i>Office Ends</i>	<i>Special Responsibilities</i>
Mrs Elaine Gilmore Chair	Co-opted	31 st January 2027	• Performance Review and Pay Review • Safer Recruitment • Safeguarding and Child Protection • Year 6 Oak Class Governor
Mrs Beaulah Chadwick Vice Chair	Parent	26 th June 2027	• Chair of Buildings and Finance Committee • Performance Review and Pay Review • Partnership • Year 5 Silver Birch Class Governor • Pupil Voice
Mrs Amanda Hulme Head Teacher	Ex-Officio	_____	• Safer Recruitment
Mr Andrew Dakin	Parent	1 st October 2027	• Website Compliance
Ms Julie Dawson	Parent	31 st January 2027	• Year 4 Sycamore Class Governor • Mathematics
Mr Peter Dunn	Parent	6 th June 2027	• GDPR • Health and Safety • Year 3 Willow Class Governor
Mrs Jessica Evans	Staff	31 st May 2025	
Mrs Emma Fisher	Co-opted	12 th March 2027	• Well-Being, and Inclusion • English and Modern Foreign Languages
Ms Lydia Gibbons	Parent	24 th June 2026	• Science, Computing and Music • Foundation Cherry Class Governor
Mrs Jo Malone	Local Authority	12 th March 2025	• Sustainability • Safer Recruitment • Humanities, Beliefs and Values, PHSE • Rowan Class Governor
Mr Joseph Makinson	Co-opted	12 th November 2027	• Equality, Disability and Inclusion
Mr Colin Myers	Co-opted	31 st January 2027	• Chair of Curriculum and Inclusion • Disadvantaged Pupils and CLA • Year 1 Beech Class Governor • PE and Sports Premium
Mrs Sarah Worden	Co-opted	17 th March 2027	
Mrs Sharon Stevenson	Co-opted	13 th March 2025	• Training Link Governor • Chair of Human Resources Committee • Chair of Policy Committee • Performance Review and Pay Review • Safer Recruitment • Design and Technology • Year 2 Hazel 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. Our 3 core functions are:

- 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

There are many difficult situations that governors must face on behalf of the school, some unexpected.

However, the untimely passing of our Site Manager Jason Stokes has been the hardest. His death left a hole in the Claypool family, bringing grief to many of its members and simultaneously creating practical issues for those grieving to address. Our key work here was to provide support for everyone affected at Claypool, to make decisions that would enable this support and allow the school to continue to function whilst it healed. Throughout the process, which is still ongoing, the level of care, of compassion and kindness the Claypool family showed to each other was remarkable, our values in action, and in some ways the shared loss brought it even closer.

Money available to school has again been a major challenge to manage without impacting on the quality of education received. As always, throughout this year our school community has worked together to provide a safe, caring, inclusive and stimulating environment for the children to learn in.

Our role is strategic and the monitoring we carry out enables the senior leadership team to focus on the day-to-day issues that arise at the school. This year our subject governors met with the lead member of staff responsible for their subject at the start of the school year and again in the summer term to look at progress of subject development plans and at how the subject was being monitored.

Our class governors visited their class in spring to monitor how well the curriculum has been developed and improved since previous visits. Other visits have taken place to ensure best practice and compliance in areas such as Safeguarding and Health and Safety.

These are examples of the impact of our meetings, visits and support this year:

Decision Making

Inclusion

- Last year we agreed to extend our school family by opening a Resourced Provision. This has been successfully introduced, developing it, and making effective use of outside agencies to assist in the best offer for all the children. Rowan class have become part of the Claypool family and inclusion continues to be a strength of the school. Very positive feedback from parents recognises the excellent work everyone is doing and how it is impacting on more settled lives at home. This is testament to the hard work and dedication of all staff within the room, who have created a safe and enjoyable learning environment. An effective curriculum and assessment package has been developed. Governors have provided support and guidance to staff within the provision.
- Many children in school have additional needs, and the introduction of awareness days has enabled pupils to better understand the unique needs of others, and to celebrate the differences our school embraces.
- The use of iThrive has been expanded to support children's emotional health and well-being.
- We have appointed an Equality, Disability, and Inclusion Link Governor to make sure that school fulfils all statutory duties and uses best practice.
- Access for all KS2 children to have swimming lessons was improved by utilising an on-site swimming pool.

Finance

- In an ever increasingly difficult budget, we have continued to avoid moving into a deficit position. This is a testament to the collective efforts of the leadership team and wider school community to deliver efficiencies and build on our controls to ensure that every pound spent has the greatest possible impact on the children's education.

Staffing

- Keeping a stable, happy work force and recruiting new members of staff has been an ongoing challenge to meet the needs of all children. There is a national issue in recruitment and retention which is impacting on our ability to find the right calibre of applicants to join the Claypool family. We have needed to fill 10 vacancies and have done so effectively, but it has not been an easy task. Further recruitment is happening next half term in preparation for September.

Developing The Team

- After many changes to the Governing Body last year, we have remained stable throughout this year, reallocating tasks, and getting acquainted with the new roles that governors had taken on. Andrew Dakin was elected as Parent Governor, strengthening our Human Resources Committee, and has fitted into the team seamlessly. We were delighted to appoint Joseph Makinson, a former pupil, into our vacant co-opted space, and he has agreed to take on responsibility for monitoring Equality, Disability, and Inclusion. New governors receive induction support and training to help them understand their responsibilities and provide them with the tools to carry them out effectively.
- We have added governor profiles to the school website so that stakeholders can see who is working hard on behalf of the children, can find a little bit about our skills and experience, see our individual responsibilities, and our attendance at meetings. Please have a look if you have the time.
- As a governing body we have continued to support one another working closely as a team. We benefitted from a team building meeting where we were more able to get to know newer members of the board.
- We are experimenting with remodelling our committees to make meetings even more efficient by avoiding any repetition and involving multi-functional decision making.

Monitoring

- Our monitoring of the School Development Plan has had a special focus on subject leadership across the school - ensuring that effective monitoring systems are in place so that subject leaders can be confident about delivery and student outcomes in each phase.
- Monitoring visits conducted found whole school approaches based on the consistent use of schemes across the year groups. Subject leaders have a clear vision for their area of the curriculum and provide support to enable all staff to work towards this. We found they were clear on where their subject area was up to and what needed to be done further.
- Monitoring of subjects found that Pupil leadership opportunities are well developed with continued encouragement to include as many pupils as possible. Along with the introduction of JLT and Oak Leaders who present to and meet with governors on a regular basis, there have been Arts leaders competitions, Smart school council, Sports Captains and Pupil Voice has been strengthened including decisions related to the new Trim Trail. It was clear that the children benefit from the responsibility that their roles bring with them.
- It was lovely to observe how children's learning is improving in different subject areas, with learning tailored to individual needs. Children are engaged, enjoying learning opportunities and their success is evident.
- Class governors also visited to see how the children were progressing, and how the curriculum had been further developed and improved to meet all their needs. Highlights from these visits were seeing clearly established routines throughout school, that children were settled, and good work was going on within the classes. Most classes seem to have moved forwards with the impact of COVID being less apparent.

Governors would like to thank all members of staff for their continuous hard work, the PTFA for their endeavors to support school, The Junior Leadership Team for their feedback and suggestions, and to all children and parents who make Claypool the wonderful place it is. We are proud to be your Governing Board, and it is my privilege to be their Chair.

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

Elaine Gilmore
Chair of Governors