



Annual Governance Statement 2025

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 Bolton Governor Services; Human Resources section of Business Committee and Policy Committee are clerked by a member of the committee. Curriculum and Inclusion and Buildings and Finance section of Business 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 5 Silver Birch & 6 Oak Class Governor
Mrs Amanda Hulme Head Teacher	Ex-Officio	_____	Safer Recruitment
Ms Zoe Bluer	Parent	29 th April 2029	
Mr Andrew Dakin	Parent	1 st October 2027	- Website Compliance - Foundation Cherry Class Governor
Mr Peter Dunn	Parent	6 th June 2027	- GDPR - Health and Safety - Year 4 Sycamore Class Governor
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 - Rowan Class Governor
Mrs Jo Malone	Local Authority	10 th November 2028	- Sustainability - Safer Recruitment - Humanities, Beliefs and Values, PHSE - Y1 Beech Class Governor
Miss Saxon Miller	Staff	22 nd September 2028	
Mr Colin Myers	Co-opted	31 st January 2027	- Chair of Curriculum and Inclusion - Disadvantaged Pupils and CLA - Foundation Cherry Class Governor - PE and Sports Premium - Performance Review and Pay Review - Y2 Hazel Class Governor
Mrs Sharon Stevenson	Co-opted	10 th November 2028	- Training Link Governor - Chair of Business Committee - Chair of Policy Committee - Performance Review and Pay Review - Safer Recruitment - Design and Technology - Year 3 Willow Class Governor
Mrs Sarah Worden	Co-opted	17 th March 2027	
Vacant	Co-opted		
Vacant	Co-opted		

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

Governors have worked positively and enthusiastically all year, and I want to thank them on behalf of everyone who benefits from their endeavours. They all have commitments: full time jobs, children, elderly parents to care for, play football for England, but they always create time to carry out their responsibilities, often at very little notice, because they know how important it is to make Claypool the best place it can be for everybody. They are a great team and whenever people step down from the pressures of governance, the rest of the team work harder until someone is appointed to take over their duties. I am just completing my 19th year as a governor here, and during that time many people have come and gone but this always remains the case, I think perhaps because it attracts people with the qualities of selflessness, responsibility and professional integrity that keeps the team strong.

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

Decision Making

- Governors have undertaken Safeguarding training and supported school successfully in a Safeguarding Audit of the school. Monitoring visits took place to ensure best practice and compliance in Health and Safety.
- Governors have continued to support Rowan class ensuring that the children are integrated as fully as possible into the wider school community.
- Throughout the year we have provided support and challenge to the Head Teacher and staff in school.
- We have supported Mrs Hulme with school recruitment across the year, interviewing and appointing new staff. Although recruitment in education remains a challenge, we work together to retain the highest standard of teaching and classroom support.

Finance

- We agreed that fundraising needed to be a priority due to the financial pressures and constraints on school budgets. A governor was given responsibility to work with school staff on ways to raise money to continue to provide the quality of education Claypool children deserve.
- Governors have attended school events to help, and we have supported with schools' excellent efforts with fund raising.

Staffing

- The challenge of recruitment has continued, and despite national shortages we were able to appoint 5 new members of staff who have enhanced the provision at school, and helped find solutions to support provision in Rowan class during the absence of Sarah Beck.
- To ensure that we always recruit the right people to work with our children 3 governors have updated their Safer Recruitment training as Safeguarding is always our first priority.

Developing The Team

- This year the board welcomed Saxon Miller as the new staff governor, offering support and guidance on how best to take on the role. We lost Beulah Chadwick, the serving Vice Chair which left many gaps to be filled. Beulah had many responsibilities on the board and did a fabulous job in her time with us. We are seeking to appoint 2 co-opted governors to replace her and Joseph Makinson. In the meantime, everyone else has been covering these jobs and a new vice chair will be appointed in June. Recruitment and retention of governors is a national problem due to the workload it can bring.
- We also thank Julie Dawson who stepped down from her parent governor role. After an election Zoe Bluer has been appointed and will receive induction support and training to help her understand her responsibilities and provide her with the tools to carry them out effectively.

- Despite changes within the governing body this year, the relationships between staff and governors have continued to strengthen, underpinned by a shared commitment to collaboration, transparency, and the school's strategic goals. We have pulled together as a team when vacancies have arisen, and other governors have stepped up to fill these roles and responsibilities.
- We remodelled our committees after a trial period, combining Buildings and Finance and Human Resources into one Business Committee to make meetings even more efficient by avoiding any repetition and involving multi-functional decision making.

Monitoring

- Class governors have visited their classes twice and Subject Governors have monitored all subject areas across school. It is always a pleasure to meet with staff and children to see how they settle early in the year, and later to see the progress they have made. It is lovely to hear about achievements and challenges, and to see the detailed planning that goes into lessons. Subject visits clearly demonstrated greater depth of support and challenge, while ensuring that the Whole School Target for Subject Leadership will be met by the end of this year. We learnt about the impact of introducing Kapow at school in some subjects to give more efficient planning, supporting the class teachers to embed subjects into the wider curriculum across school. Our relationships with staff and children have become even stronger through these class visits and monitoring.
- Observations of Rowan class have shown steady development in curriculum and assessment. The classroom itself has been strategically changed in accordance with changing pupil need. The class governor has built good relationships with class staff, and all governors have thought carefully and meaningfully about the inclusion of Rowan class.
- Governors have scrutinised policies and practices to ensure they reflect current legislation.

Governors want to thank staff for their continuous hard work, the PTFA for helping support school to raise funds, The Junior Leadership Team, and all children and parents who make Claypool special. We are proud to be your Governing Board, and it continues to be 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