

Crayke Church of England Primary School



Governors' Annual Statement to Parents 2025-2026

FOLLOW YOUR PATHWAY AND WE GROW TOGETHER WITH CONFIDENCE

*You did not choose me, I chose you that you might **go and bear fruit, fruit that will last** so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. John 15:16*

Respect

Friendship

Forgiveness

Determination



Introduction

We are pleased to report on the work of the governors this school year.

Our core functions as a Governing Body are to:

- ensure the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
- hold the leaders to account for the educational performance of the school
- oversee financial performance and make sure money is well spent





The team

There were 12 governors:

Mrs Jackson (Headteacher)

Julie Cater and Lucy Willshaw (Church Foundation)

Edgar Seligman (Local Authority)

Mrs Walsh (Staff)

Andrea Hayes, Barbara Lunn, Elly Dawson, Lee Hartley and Fiona Ankers (Co-opted)

Toby Tsang, Marta Bujwicka-Colman (Parent Governors)

Gayle Robinson (Associate Governor)

Andrea Hayes and Lucy Willshaw were Co-Chairs for the year. Elly left at the end of the year. She has been a parent governor for seven years and we are very grateful for her substantial contribution. Gayle Robinson will now take up a full governor role. Andrea stepped down as Co-Chair and Lucy will become the Chair from September, Andrea will remain as a Co-opted governor.



The meetings

The full Governing Body met four times in the school year. There were two committees: Personnel Premises and Finance, and Headteacher's Performance Management. The first two met each term and the third twice in the year. Attendance at meetings was 88%.

Details of individual governors and minutes of full Governing Body meetings can be found on the school website: <https://craykeschool.org/governors/>

Governors were linked to areas of the school development plan. They visited the school twice in the year, held meetings with staff, observed lessons and talked to pupils.

There were also governors responsible for the specific areas of Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and Wellbeing.

Governors do like to know parents' and pupils' opinions and we are briefed on the results of various surveys completed for Mrs Jackson by pupils, parents and staff.

Our Vision

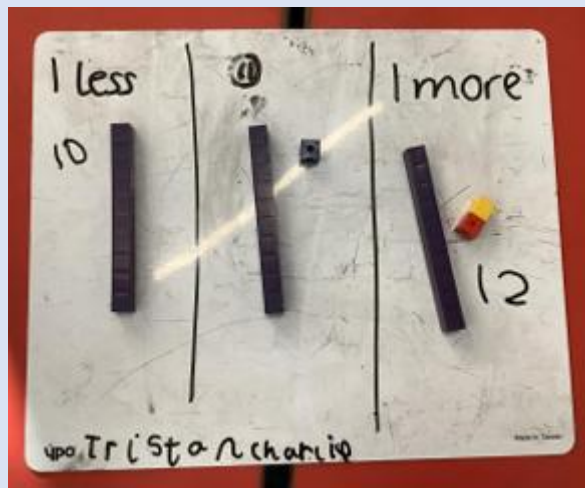
Governors are responsible for setting the vision and strategic direction of the school. Our vision statement and values are embedded throughout the life of the school. Our 2024-27 Strategic Plan is available on the school website and reflects the annual School Improvement Plan. Governors reviewed progress on the plan. We were very impressed by the progress the school has made on its various aspects including the curriculum, the behaviour code and the role of OPAL. Much of this was also recognised in the very positive SIAMs Inspection report in October 2026. We also reviewed many school policies to ensure they continue to reflect the ethos and Christian values that underpin school life as well as statutory requirements.



Educational Performance

Governors continued to scrutinise pupil achievement throughout the year, drawing on termly assessment information provided by staff. We examined this data in detail, including EYFS outcomes, phonics results, SATs performance and teacher assessments. Particular attention was given to the progress of SEND pupils and those eligible for the Pupil Premium. The positive effects of the revised curriculum and the wider improvement work undertaken are clear.

Subject link governors concentrated on evaluating the quality of the curriculum and the learning experience offered to pupils. We welcomed the clear advances in the teaching of Maths and Phonics and noted steady improvement across all subject areas. Governors also reviewed the impact of the learning mentor role, monitoring its influence on attendance and behaviour. The benefits continue to be visible.



Financial Performance

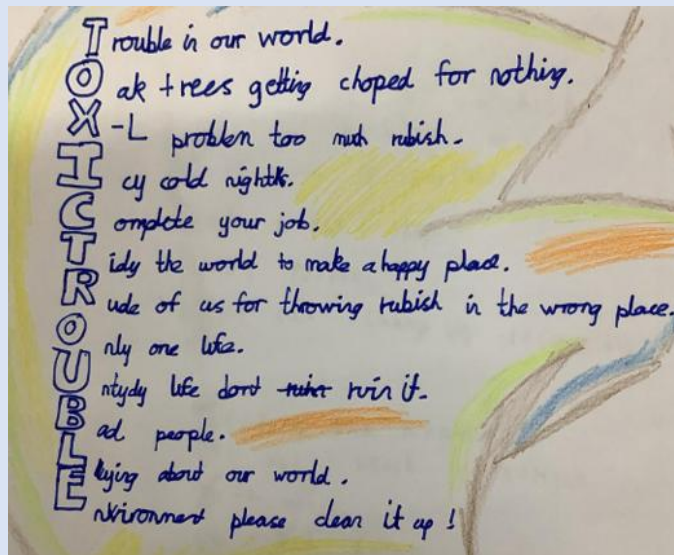
The Personnel, Premises and Finance Committee oversaw the school's financial planning and performance, ensuring robust management of resources and value for money. Despite the pressures of rising costs and salary underfunding, governors maintained a strong financial position for the school. Throughout the year, we received detailed reports and made decisions relating to premises, health and safety, and staffing matters. We approved the staffing structure for 2025-26 and were involved in recruitment processes where required. Governors also monitored the before- and after-school care provision, which continues to grow successfully and deliver clear benefits for families.



Safeguarding and Child Protection

Governors remain committed to ensuring that robust safeguarding arrangements are in place across the school. Throughout the year, we reviewed key policies and considered the Headteacher's Annual Safeguarding Report. In addition, the designated safeguarding governor carried out an in-depth review of practice particularly linked to attendance. Governors are assured that the school has a strong safeguarding culture, supported by high-quality staff training and well-established procedures.

Safeguarding remains a continuous priority. Regular meetings take place between the Safeguarding Governor and the Headteacher. Governors engaged with external training provided by North Yorkshire and the NSPCC, covering safeguarding responsibilities and safer recruitment.



Conclusion

Governors extend their sincere appreciation to Mrs Jackson and the whole staff team for their commitment and hard work. The many initiatives introduced over recent years are now making a clear and positive difference to pupils' learning, progress, personal development and behaviour. We are also grateful to parents and carers for their continued support of the school, reflected so strongly in survey questionnaire responses. It was encouraging to see how many children speak positively about their experiences and enjoyment of school life.

We would also like to acknowledge the dedication of our fellow governors throughout the year. Our role is both to support the school and to provide rigorous oversight of its effectiveness. We are grateful to Mrs Jackson and the staff for their openness and cooperation, which enables us to carry out this responsibility with confidence.

Andrea Hayes and Lucy Willshaw

Sept 2026



