



St Paul's Church of England Academy

Annual Governance Statement 2025–2026

Introduction

This Annual Governance Statement outlines the work of the Trust Board at St Paul's Church of England Academy during the academic year 2025–2026. It demonstrates how governors have fulfilled their statutory responsibilities, provided strategic leadership and worked alongside school leaders to ensure the continued success of the academy.

Throughout the year, governors have remained committed to providing both support and constructive challenge, ensuring that all strategic decisions reflect the school's Christian vision and place the education, wellbeing and personal development of every child at the heart of the academy's work.

Vision and Values

As a Church of England Academy, our vision is rooted in the Christian values of Love, Hope, Faith and Forgiveness.

Our vision:

“We walk by faith and not by sight, guided by the love of Jesus Christ.”

continues to shape the strategic direction of the academy and informs every aspect of school life. Governors are committed to ensuring that this vision is evident through the curriculum, collective worship, leadership, relationships and the wider opportunities provided for pupils.

Governance Structure

St Paul's Church of England Academy operates as a stand-alone academy trust with delegated responsibility resting with the Trust Board.

The Trust Board is made up of Foundation, Parent and Co-opted Governors who work closely with the Principal and senior leaders to provide effective strategic leadership.

Governors meet regularly throughout the year, both as a full Trust Board and through

committee meetings, to fulfil their responsibilities for educational performance and school improvement, finance and resources, staffing and personnel, buildings, health and safety, safeguarding, audit and risk management, and Christian distinctiveness.

In addition to formal meetings, governors undertake regular monitoring visits to evaluate the impact of the school's work and to strengthen their understanding of school improvement priorities.

Governance Priorities 2025–2026

- Raising Educational Standards – monitoring attainment and progress, reviewing curriculum development, challenging leaders on outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND, monitoring attendance, behaviour and inclusion, evaluating interventions and supporting the Year of Reading initiative.
- Christian Distinctiveness – monitoring collective worship, supporting Religious Education, evaluating the impact of the school's Christian vision and values, participating in worship and school events, and monitoring the continued embedding of SIAMS priorities.
- Safeguarding and Wellbeing – receiving regular safeguarding reports, monitoring statutory training and compliance, reviewing safeguarding policies, scrutinising attendance and behaviour, and evaluating wellbeing provision for pupils and staff.
- Financial Stewardship – approving and monitoring the budget, ensuring resources support School Improvement Plan priorities, monitoring financial sustainability, overseeing premises and health and safety, and ensuring value for money.
- Leadership and Governance – providing strategic support and challenge through Principal reports, governor monitoring visits, performance management, succession planning and engagement with the wider school community.

Impact of Governance

During 2025–2026 the Trust Board has continued to provide effective strategic leadership and accountability, supported improvements in teaching, learning and the curriculum, maintained rigorous oversight of safeguarding and pupil welfare, ensured sound financial management, strengthened relationships with the school community and supported the continued development of the academy's Christian vision and values.

Governor Training and Development

Governors have continued to enhance their knowledge through training in safeguarding, finance, governance, educational performance, attendance, SIAMS and health and safety. This ongoing professional development enables governors to fulfil their statutory responsibilities effectively and provide informed strategic support and challenge.

Looking Ahead 2026–2027

The Trust Board will continue to focus on improving outcomes for all pupils, strengthening attendance and inclusion, embedding curriculum developments, developing leadership capacity, maintaining the highest standards of safeguarding, supporting staff wellbeing and recruitment, recruiting additional governors and ensuring that the school's Christian vision continues to shape strategic decision-making.

Conclusion

The Trust Board remains fully committed to providing effective strategic leadership, support and challenge to ensure that St Paul's Church of England Academy continues to flourish. Governors are proud to work alongside school leaders, staff, pupils and families in enabling every child to achieve their full potential academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually within our caring Christian community.

Signed:



Chair of Governors

Sarah Bott



Principal

Anna McGuire

Date: July 2026