

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Collis Primary School September 2024 to July 2025

In accordance with Government requirements for all governing bodies, the governing board of Collis has four core strategic 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.
- Ensuring the school remains compliant with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

Governance Arrangements

For the 2024/25 school year the Governing Board consisted of:

- 9 Co-opted Governors
- The Headteacher
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 2 Elected Parent Governors
- 1 Staff Governor
- 2 Associate Members

The Full Governing Board meets four times each year. Committee meetings take place at least once per term. The purpose of the governing board and its Committees are as follows:

Full Governing Board (FGB)

The Governing Board maintains oversight of work of the Committees and associated groups. The Board reviews recommendations from its external assessors on school performance, including reports from the Local Authority School Improvement Partner, to support decision making while also ensuring that the school is on track to meet its strategic objectives and objectives within the School Development Plan.

The Governing Board has a timetable in place to ensure that school policies are reviewed and approved within required timescales aligned to statutory compliance and Local Authority Regulations.

Key documents reviewed and discussed at 2024/25 Board meetings include:

- Termly Headteacher's report highlighting areas of success, key activities underway, data on attendance and behaviour, and to identify areas of concern.
- The School Development Plan (SDP) which sets out the school's three year strategic priorities. The SDP is an evolving document that embraces Collis's required developments alongside local and national expectations; this changes and grows as new legislation and educational research becomes available.
- The Grid which serves as a key driver for strategy that effectively translates SDP plans into action while maintaining a dynamic flow between objectives, strategies, and tactics (OST). The grid is a tactical execution of the Collis strategy that outlines the people and systems to give us the best possible chance of success. Put simply, the grid reflects the Collis strategy for enhancing school improvement.
- A Risk register to identify strategic risks that could impact the school.

Governor engagement is not limited to Board meetings and Committees. Each term a Governor event has been held to enable governors to speak with staff and children as well as opportunities to meet parents at the Parent Focus Groups. All governors regularly report that children feel safe, that the standards of behaviour remain high and pupils enjoy coming to school.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee monitors the effectiveness of the implementation of the curriculum, assessments and performance data, behaviour and pupil welfare. Safeguarding is of paramount importance to all committees and this is included in their monitoring activities and decisions. Two Safeguarding governor leads meet with the school Safeguarding team every term.

The Curriculum Committee has primarily supported the school as follows:

- Monitored the delivery of quality first teaching with deep dive presentations from teachers into a range of subject areas, external validation of delivery through the school improvement partner, and governor visits.
- Overseen the school's attendance strategy which reflects the school's 'every day matters' approach.

- The Safeguarding leads have followed their responsibilities diligently to ensure that reviews have been thoroughly carried out to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of pupils. The OFSTED Parent view survey April 2025 found 100% of 482 parents responding agreed their child felt happy at Collis and 99% agreed they felt safe at school.
- Participated in and monitored Parent Focus Group outputs.
- Agreed and monitored the annual targets for pupil progress and attainment (including disadvantaged pupils) and recognised the positive results achieved in the prior academic year.
- Closely monitored policies and practices to ensure the needs of all pupils were met and effectively implemented for all vulnerable groups.
- Monitored how the school engaged with pupils, parents and other stakeholders, including review and reflection on surveys across different groups.

Resources Committee

The Resources Committee monitors the financial management of the school and agrees school budgets. They oversee the management of school premises and grounds, health & safety. HR (and areas such as staff performance management, professional development and senior post recruitment) also fall into their remit – with the work of the Committee supported as needed by the HR working group.

The Resources Committee has worked with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to ensure there is a positive financial position and achieve a balanced budget for the next three years. There was also an expansion in wraparound care (extending to Early years) and growth of the nurse – which positively impacted on numbers on roll. The Resources Committee has also overseen new contracts being put into place for cleaning, catering and energy. Finally, the HR group has also worked with the school team to look at resourcing issues for the SLT.

Areas of oversight over the last year have also been:

- Monitoring the school's ability to attract and retain talented staff.
- Closely monitoring Pupil Premium, SEN and PE/Sports Premium funding.
- Reviewing the applications of funds raised by the CSA. (The wide-ranging success of events run by the Collis School Association are invaluable in enhancing the facilities and learning environment the children can enjoy).
- Premises, including the school swimming pool.
- Parent Fund.
- Investigating staff turnover, with governor support for exit interviews.

OFSTED result

The work of both Committees in the areas indicated above have contributed to a very pleasing OFSTED result for the school (following an inspection visit on 1st and 2nd April 2025). A group of governors met with inspectors to talk about the work of the board, and were able to describe the input, support and challenge they provide the school with as part of their role.

The school was found to be Outstanding in all areas:

- The Quality of Education – Outstanding
- Behaviour and Attitudes – Outstanding
- Personal Development – Outstanding
- Leadership and Management – Outstanding
- Early Years Provision – Outstanding

Attendance record of Governors

All FGB and Committee meetings this year have been quorate. A full record of governor attendance is on the Governor page of the school website.

Throughout the year, governors have actively attended training sessions provided by Achieving for Children and other governance organisations to ensure we are able to meet regulatory requirements and keep up to date, while harnessing insights from the borough to support the headteacher and Senior Leadership team.

Contacting the Governing Board

Governors have a strategic role and we always welcome feedback, suggestions or ideas that can inform the potential future direction and development of our school, this can be done via the school office. Queries or concerns regarding school operations should be directed to the headteacher in the first instance.