

To ensure that we are effective in our roles and meeting the expectations and requirements outlined in the DfE's Governance Handbook, we undertake a range of training and development along with a lot of reading to keep ourselves up-to-date on the latest legislation and policy development. For more information about the role of school governance, the following are helpful links:

Governance Handbook, Competency Framework and Clerking Competency Framework:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>

Academies Financial Handbook

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academies-financial-handbook>

We are also members of the National Governors' Association: www.nga.org.uk and The Key for Governors: <https://schoolgovernors.thekeysupport.com/>

Training

As a collective Governance Board, we have undertaken the following training:

- Induction
- Governors Leadership Development (INOJI – commissioned through the Trust)
- Chairs Leadership Development Programme (NCTL)
- Safeguarding (Child Protection, Safer Recruitment, Prevent, FGM, CSE, E-Safety – Safeguarding in Schools (Andrew Hall) Data Protection (GDPR)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
- Health & Safety
- Finance
- Conducting a Monitoring Visit
- Performance Management
- Exclusions
- Complaints

We have all completed a skills audit which enables us to identify what further training is needed – both for the individual and as a group.

Statutory Duties

We are also responsible for a number of statutory duties including:

- Ensuring that the school provides a broad and balanced curriculum
- Ensuring that the school complies with the Equality Act, Health & Safety At Work Act and the Employment Act.
- Ensuring that the school complies with the Special Educational Needs and Disability legislation
- Ensuring that we seek and listen to the views of our stakeholders: staff, parents and children. All these groups are represented in our Governance structure.

Jill Wilkinson is our named **Safeguarding Governor** and she is also the Chair of the Trust's Guardians Group and undertakes safeguarding reviews for the Trust along with other Trust colleagues.

Our meetings are structured such that Part 4 of our agendas are to ensure that we meet our statutory duties and this is also where we look at Trust and School policies.

Our School doesn't just rely on its own performance information. They engage with both the Trust and external organisations who come in at different times during the year and undertake a range of different reviews to assess and look at what is happening right across the school. This gives the Governance Board confidence in what we are being told in terms of overall performance of the school and that our children are receiving the best possible learning.