

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Cold Norton Primary School July 2025

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Cold Norton Primary School Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Cold Norton Primary School as of July 2025 is made up of 1 Local Authority governor, 3 Co-opted Governors, 3 elected Parent Governors and 2 Staff Governors (including the Headteacher). Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Body. These are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

On our Governing Body, the Co-opted Governors are members of the local community and/or whose children have attended Cold Norton Primary. During this academic year, we thanked Mrs Kirkham for her long time support as they stood down at the end of the academic year. We also welcomed Mr Smith and Mr Anderson to the Governing Body.

The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have two committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. At Cold Norton Primary School we have a Finance Committee, which focuses on finance, premises and some personnel matters and a Curriculum Committee. We also have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

Attendance record of governors

The register of who attends meetings is available online. Our FGB meetings take place on site. In order to ensure that meetings are quorate (the legal number of governors required

	to make a legal decisions), we do have meetings on Microsoft Teams.
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body	Every academic year has its own challenge. Attendance across the country remains a focus of attention, as does widening attainment gaps, particularly with regards to disadvantaged children. Across the country Ofsted found many Reception / KS1 children with weak language, literacy, numeracy and self-help skills. Teacher shortages continues to be a concern as does funding shortfalls which impacts on school buildings and resources. The Finance Committee has continued to keep an eye on the school's finances, and managed to end the year in the black. We are still facing significant challenges to balance the books in the very near future. The Finance Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget. Early in the summer term, the Finance Committee approved the 2025/2026 budget plan for the school. Looking forward we currently envisage not going into the red for another two academic years. However, continuing rising costs for everything, increased staffing costs, and Universal Free School Meals continue to place a burden on the school. The Finance Committee has noted that whilst the budget plan has been agreed, there are continuous variables particularly to personnel costs that are monitored regularly at our meetings. The Curriculum Committee continued to look at pupil achievement and progress and we were again pleased with the KS2 SATS results. We were also pleased with the results of Phonics outcomes which were above the national average. Absence continues to be a national concern and again families try to make the most of cheaper holidays during term time. Focus has been on embedding the new curriculum and this is ongoing alongside ensuring that assessment is fit for purpose. Safeguarding continues to be given high priority for governors and the Nominated Governor for Safeguarding, Mrs McNally meets with the Headteacher regularly and reports to governors at the Curriculum Meetings. One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have considered a number of

	key policies. The governors continue to monitor attendance and targets are set yearly. Governors visited the school when able to and spoke to children and staff. Governors report what they have seen to the relevant committees. The Chair and Vice Chair of Governors have maintained contact throughout the year by visiting on site and meeting the Headteacher. Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.
Future plans for the governors	The governors are very aware of the ever changing educational landscape both locally and nationally. Finances for the school are a real concern and we are very aware that the school building is looking tired and requires some maintenance. A small school like Cold Norton will find it increasingly difficult not to be part of a bigger consortium of schools. We currently work with local Dengie schools with regards to monitoring teaching and learning and this would appear to be the model for school improvement in the future. We have continued to look into whether joining a MAT would suit Cold Norton Primary School and during the year had discussions with the Department for Education and with the CEO of a newly formed Multi Academy Trust, which includes a secondary school and a number of local primary schools. Following a number of meetings, including consulting with staff, the formal decision to pursue joining this MAT has been taken. The Governing Body will now carry out its due diligence, and work with all stakeholders with a view to becoming part of the MAT in September 2026.
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Gloria Gold, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors; their committee membership and positions of responsibility; their attendance at meetings and their ‘conflict of interests’ all on the Governors’ page of the school website.