



GATEWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Inspiring Curious Minds



Headteacher: Mrs Kayleigh Anstee

Date: 8th January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Volunteers,

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas/end of year break!

The Full Governing Board met on 15th December 202. At the meeting the minutes of our 6th October 2025 meeting were approved and are now available on the [Governor Page of the school website](#) along with lots of other useful information about governance.

We are pleased to share the following highlights from the discussion:

School roll, staffing and day-to-day running

- The school currently has 305 pupils on roll
- The school is fully staffed (including a new teaching assistant who joined in October). One teacher left at Christmas, and a contingency plan is in place to cover the vacancy.
- As in many schools at this time of year, there has been some illness affecting both pupils and staff; leaders have managed this through cover and flexible TA deployment.

Attendance

- Overall attendance for the term is 95.96%, which is above national (reported as 94.4%).
- Attendance for pupils with SEND was reported as 95%, placing the school in the top 30% nationally in the benchmarking shared with governors.

Behaviour and exclusions

- Governors reviewed behaviour information, including fixed-term exclusions. There have been four since the last FGB meeting and eight across the year so far (totaling 18.5 days).
- Governors noted the school's approach is that exclusion is used only as a last resort, typically for serious incidents.

Safeguarding and pupil wellbeing

- Leaders reported no safeguarding or bullying issues to raise with governors.
- Governors noted the safeguarding audit process was calm, thorough and professional.

Teaching, learning and school improvement priorities

- The School Evaluation Form (SEF) has been updated to reflect the new Ofsted grading criteria and will be kept under review as national guidance becomes clearer.
- Governors reviewed the 2025–26 School Improvement Plan, with four main priorities:
 - Improving progress in mathematics
 - Improving progress in English through active teaching of reading and writing
 - Strengthening oracy (“talk for learning”) across the curriculum
 - Ensuring pupils with complex needs receive the right support

Environmental sustainability and Climate Action Plan

- Governors discussed the school's work on environmental sustainability, including development of a Climate Action Plan.
- The governor lead for sustainability has attended training and will take the audit process forward in January.
- Audit materials from Oxfordshire County Council will support a step-by-step approach to building the school's Climate Action Plan.
- An Eco Committee has been recruited to help drive this work and involve pupils.

Premises, clubs and wider community

- Discussions took place about the longer-term plans to expand and upgrade the school kitchen.
- Site lighting will continue to be improved.
- The school will run a Holiday Club for the first time over February half-term (expected to be popular, and to generate a modest profit to reinvest in school).

Celebrating our school community and events

- Governors were pleased to hear about the success of recent community and fundraising events, and the way pupils have represented the school in the wider community:
 - GSA fundraising events including the Halloween Disco, Christmas Bingo and Christmas Fair.
 - Remembrance in town, including pupils laying a wreath on behalf of the school.
 - House Captains visiting the military base to represent the school at the formal Service of Remembrance, alongside poppy making activities.
 - The Christmas pantomime in the last week of term, with the GSA kindly funding transport and snacks.

Parent engagement

- Parent evenings were very well attended. Leaders also shared how they follow up directly with families who are unable to attend, so everyone can still have a conversation about pupil progress.

Finance and policies

- The budget was reported as on track and healthy, especially compared to most other schools nationally, and the Local Authority has expressed confidence in budget management.
- Governors approved a range of key policies, including admissions, assessment, communication, pay, marking and feedback, SEND, charging and remission, and data protection.

A special thank you to the GSA

- We would like to say a warm thank you to the Gateway School Association (GSA) for all their help and support over the last year. By raising much-needed funds for the school, the GSA has helped to provide extra opportunities and resources that have made a real difference to our pupils. We are very grateful for the time, energy and commitment that families put into supporting our school community.

Governor Vacancies

- We have two co-opted Governor vacancies and one parent governor vacancy which we urgently need to fill. It is really important that our community is represented on the Governing Board and that we have a diverse range of life experiences – if you would like to know more or apply (parent governor vacancy closes on 31st January 2026) then please review the information [here](#) or email me for an informal chat.
- If it is not something you are interested in, please do help us to flag with your networks.

As a school community it is important that we work together to support every child's development. With your ongoing involvement and encouragement, we can help every pupil thrive and reach their full potential. Together, we are working toward a shared mission: **to inspire curious minds by creating a welcoming, inclusive learning environment where every student is encouraged to explore, question, and grow.** We remain dedicated to promoting academic excellence, creativity, and strong values, while nurturing a lifelong love of learning that prepares all students for the next stage of their education. As a school community, each of us contributes to **living our values**, setting a positive example for our pupils through our daily actions and behaviours.

As always if you have any questions about governance at your school then please do reach out to me on kmoyes@gateway.oxon.sch.uk.

Best wishes,



Kevin Moyes
Chair of Governors