



Governing Board – Victoria Park Nursery School Annual Governance Statement 2025

Introduction The Governing Board of Victoria Park Nursery School consists of 9 appointed/elected Governors, an Associate Member and the School Business Manager:

Appointed/Elected

- 4 Co-opted Governors
- 2 Parent Governors
- 1 Staff Governor
- 1 x LA (Local Authority) Governor
- 1 Head Teacher

Clerk to Governors

Roles and Names

Co-opted Governors

- Maurizia Onori: Chair of Governors, AP, FHRC, PC, Safeguarding Governor
- Aditya Keshari: Vice Chair of Governors, Health & Safety Governor (Chair FHRC)
- Pam Lusby - Taylor: FHRC, AP, PC

Parent Governors

- Arpit Gupta: FHRC
- Rachel Tucker: SEND Governor

Local Authority Governor: Rachel Tucker

Head Teacher: Lynda Shepherd (Ex officio) - AP, FHRC, PC

Staff Governor: Louise Griffiths

SBM: Stacey Wyles - AP, FHRC, PC

Clerk: Chrys Healy

The three core strategic functions of Governance are:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.**
- 2. Holding the Head Teacher 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.**

The main ways in which we have undertaken those functions in the past academic year are summarised below.

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

- Ensured that the leadership team are able to offer the most effective arrangements in place to offer the best for the pupils in its care and to support the much-valued staff.

2. Holding the HT to account for the educational performance of the school and pupils

- Held a performance management review for the Head Teacher and carried out regular monitoring meetings.
- The Head Teacher's report is a regular agenda item at FGB (Full Governing Board) meetings.
- Undertaken training on a range of aspects of education, including Co-Chairs attending termly Leadership Forums run by the LA in order to better understand and support the school.



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- Ensured school meets all its statutory and good practice requirements with regard to Safeguarding and Health & Safety by undertaking regular checks, updating policies and briefing governors accordingly

3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school, making sure money is well spent

- There is an FHRC (Finance & Human Resources Committee), which meets at least once a term and gets regular information on the school's financial position.

Governor Objectives for 2025/26 The Governing Board is committed to ensuring that the nursery provides high-quality early years education, care, and safeguarding. To achieve this, the Board will focus on the following objectives:

1: Educational Excellence

- Support the development of a broad, balanced, and engaging early years curriculum.
- Monitor the quality of teaching, learning, and assessment to ensure children make excellent progress.
- Ensure provision meets and exceeds the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

2: Child-Centred Care and Safeguarding

- Place the safety, wellbeing, and happiness of every child at the centre of all decisions.
- Ensure that safeguarding policies and practices are robust, up to date, and consistently applied.
- Promote inclusion and equal opportunities so every child can thrive, regardless of background or ability.

3: Leadership and Accountability

- Provide effective challenge and support to the Headteacher and leadership team.
- Monitor progress against the school development plan and hold leaders accountable for outcomes.
- Ensure decisions are evidence-based and in the best interests of children and families.

4. Staff Development and Wellbeing

- Support the recruitment, retention, and professional development of high-quality staff.
- Encourage a positive, collaborative, and supportive working environment.
- Promote training and continuous improvement to ensure staff are skilled and confident in delivering the best for children.

5: Community and Parental Engagement

- Foster strong partnerships with parents and carers to support children's learning and development.
- Build links with the wider community, local schools, and services to enhance opportunities for children.
- Actively promote the nursery's values and vision to strengthen its role at the heart of the community.

Maurizia Onori
Chair of Governors
February 2026