Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Tollesbury School

March 2026

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Tollesbury 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 Tollesbury School is made up of 2 staff Governors (including the Headteacher), 3 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governors and 5 Co-Opted Governors who are appointed by the Governing Body and 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. The Deputy Head attends meetings as an observer. The full Governing Body meets at least termly. We also have a Finance and Premises Committee which focuses on overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring that its money is well spent. It also considers matters relating to the maintenance and development of the school premises, and the health and safety issues and matters relating to Personnel. A Curriculum Committee that meets termly. Committees to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters, meet as required. See page 4 for a list of Governors.

Attendance record of Governors	Governors have good attendance at meetings, and we have never had to cancel a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). Apologies for absence are a standing agenda item and must be approved by the full Governing Body.
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body	The Governing Body has had a busy year, focusing on developments within Phonics, Oracy, Maths and EYFS. Time has been spent considering the prospect of a new English curriculum and governors have reviewed Assessment data. Regular monitoring leaves the Governing Body confident that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. The school takes great pains to deliver the curriculum to all pupils. We carefully track the progress of all pupils, but there is always a focus on the targeted groups of children. Governor monitoring includes a focus on how all pupils' needs are being provided for and what impact this has on assessment outcomes at key points throughout the academic year. A member of our Safeguarding committee carries out termly checks of the premises with Mr Mowbray, the school's caretaker. Safeguarding is also a high priority, we have a nominated governor for Safeguarding (Mrs Bickell). Safeguarding is an agenda item at every meeting. Early in the summer term, the Finance and Premises committee approved the 2025/26 budget plan for the school. Priorities for spending were agreed so that expenditure has maximum impact on school improvement. One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies. This year we have considered a number of key policies, including Behaviour Management and Safeguarding. 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 have an annual Action Plan which allows us to work in-step with the school and is based on the School Development Plan. Our priorities remain Oracy, the EYFS curriculum, understanding how the school manages transitions into the school and between Key Stages, and the continuing development of the Maths Curriculum and the learning environment.
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Stephen Leatherdale, via the Governor's page of the school website.

Tollesbury School Governing Body

Governor	Category	Term of office expiry date.
Mr Stephen Leatherdale (Chair of Governors)	Co-Opted	17th April 2028
Mrs Katrina Bickell (Vice Chair of Governors)	Co-Opted	17th April 2028
Mrs Kate Garnett (Headteacher)	Staff	N/A
Mrs Janaki Murthy	Staff	17th April 2028
Mrs Susan Wootten	Local Authority	5th November 2027
Mr Andrew Gilbert	Co-Opted	17th April 2028
Mrs Helen Tovey	Co-Opted	11th October 2027
Mrs Steven Davidson	Co-Opted	26th February 2029
Mrs Joanna Boaler	Co-Opted	26th February 2029
Mrs Jeremy Halford	Co-Opted	26th February 2029
Mrs Emma Howland	Parent	10th May 2026
Ms Jessica Hodge	Parent	14th February 2028
Mr Paul Merchant	Parent	26th January 2029
Mrs Gaye Dodds	Clerk to Governors	N/A