



**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Guildford Nursery School and Family Centre**  
July 2022

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Guildford Nursery School and Family Centre Governing Body are:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- 2. Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the Centre and the performance management of staff;**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the Centre and making sure its money is well spent.**

<b>Governance arrangements</b>	<p>The Governing Body of Guildford Nursery School and Family Centre (GNSFC) consists of two Staff Governors (including the Head Teacher), two Parent Governors, one Local Authority Governor and four Co-opted Governors. We also currently have two Associate Governors.</p> <p>Co-opted and Associate Governors 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 GNSFC.</p> <p>The Full Governing Body meets at least once each term. We also have two sub committees, which are formed each September, to consider different aspects of GNSFC in detail. We have a Resources &amp; Staffing Committee that focuses on finances, premises and personnel matters, and a Children &amp; Learning Committee that focuses on monitoring safeguarding, the impact of teaching and learning for all children and helping families in the local community. We also form smaller working parties, as and when required, to focus on specific projects.</p>
<b>Attendance record of governors</b>	<p>Governors have good attendance at meetings and any absence is explained and noted.</p>
<b>Governor training</b>	<p>Governors have continued to make the most of the online training sessions provided by Strictly 4S and SAfE attending a number of webinars over the course of the school year.</p> <p>Training sessions attended included: safeguarding, understanding the new EYFS curriculum, revisiting the quality of education Ofsted judgement, hot topics, internet safety, performance management of staff and understanding the FMR.</p> <p>This means that governors were well placed to provide appropriate challenge and make sure that all areas of safeguarding, learning, finance, and regulation were covered. This benefitted staff, children and families in that governors</p>

	<p>were more knowledgeable and asking the right questions to ensure that our standards across the setting are of the very highest quality.</p>
<p><b>The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body</b></p>	<p>Each committee spent time at the start of the year linking governor visits with the Centre Development Plan to make sure monitoring and challenge could be as effective as possible. Governors also highlight where we have supported and challenged in each meeting, to make sure we are questioning, challenging, and supporting as appropriate.</p> <p>The Resources and Staffing committee continued to pay close attention to the finances this year as the pandemic and changes to funding continued to impact the sustainability of the Centre.</p> <p>For example, the number of FEET two-year-olds coming to nursery is lower than pre-pandemic and wrap around care is less in demand. Lettings income however has improved and the extra funding from Froebel has been used wisely and with positive outcomes for staff and children. The governing body has also suggested an annual Froebel event to raise awareness of our practice among existing and potential families as well as the wider community.</p> <p>With continual financial pressures and uncertainty surrounding government/local authority long term funding, the Resources and Staffing committee continued to pay close attention to the finances this year. It ensured that there was a continual focus on additional revenue streams to make the nursery and family centre as financially robust as possible, made sure value for money was evidenced for each project/upgrade and scrutinised the budget plan. A new lunch provider was also challenged and agreed.</p> <p>Regular visits ensured that health &amp; safety systems are in place and effective and careful monitoring of emerging drills this year has led to improvements in performance and knowledge.</p> <p>The Children &amp; Learning committee continued its 'learning walks' with a different focus each term. Different staff members were invited to talk to the committee on subjects such as inclusion, persona dolls, and the natural areas (including Froebel) at York Road. Undertaking on-site meetings at York Road and Hazel Avenue has enabled us to view the learning environment (including the new sensory room and Willow Room at Hazel Avenue), meet staff and children, as well as seeing the provision available to aid children's development in practice. Next year, we will ensure more of a focus is given the Family Centre so we can get to know staff better and learn more about their work with families. Our first visit of the year will be at The Spinney.</p> <p>The committee has also kept a very close eye on the well-being of staff and children, as well as the progress of the children in a 'catch-up' year post the pandemic. The committee regularly reviews data and ensures the new tools in place to support assessments and monitoring of children's progress are evidence based and fit for purpose. The new way of assessing children's learning has also been reviewed.</p>

<p><b>Future plans for the governors</b></p>	<p>The number of formal face-to-face visits will be increased next year and a schedule of termly visits will be agreed in September.</p> <p>One of our main focuses for the nursery will be on the continued improvements in children’s learning and their outcomes. There will be a particular focus on our SEN provision going forward as we look for clarification on funding from the local authority and work to strike a balance of providing as many SEN places as possible, whilst making sure that the staffing structure is sustainable, and all children get the appropriate focus.</p> <p>In the second year of a three-year project for the Froebel Trust, the governing body will continue to monitor progress –within the nursery setting, and on a national and international basis as we continue to raise the profile of the practices and our setting.</p> <p>As always, a close eye will be kept on the finances, and we will look to increase diversity in our workforce so that it better represents our community.</p> <p>The main focus for the Family Centre will be the continued support of staff, making sure we are reaching the families we need to, and that we are offering as many high-quality services as is possible. With an increasing workload and increasing level of complexity of cases, this too will be a balancing act.</p> <p>We hope to have the opportunity to have more face-to-face events and communication with parents and families.</p>
<p><b>How you can contact the governing body</b></p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback, and ideas from parents. We also welcome anyone who would like to become a Governor. Please contact the Clerk of Governors, on <a href="mailto:clerk@guildfordnsc.surrey.sch.uk">clerk@guildfordnsc.surrey.sch.uk</a> or via GNSFC reception. You can see the full list of governors and more information about what we do, on our website.</p>