



Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Guildford Nursery School and Family Centre
July 2023

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.**

Governance arrangements	<p>The Governing Body of Guildford Nursery School and Family Centre (GNSFC) currently 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 three 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. In the school year 2022-2023 we had two sub committees to consider different aspects of GNSFC in detail. We had a Resources & Staffing Committee that focused on finances, premises and personnel matters, and a Children & Learning Committee that focused on monitoring safeguarding, the impact of teaching and learning for all children and helping families in the local community.</p> <p>In the school year 2023-2024, the governing body will move to a flat structure, with all governors attending all meetings.</p>
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Attendance record of governors	Governors have good attendance at meetings and any absence is explained and noted.
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Governor training	<p>Governors have continued to make the most of the training sessions provided by Strictly 4S and SAfE, attending a number of webinars and face to face training over the course of the school year.</p> <p>Training sessions attended included: safeguarding, safe recruitment, and self-evaluation.</p> <p>This benefitted staff, children and families in that governors were more knowledgeable and asking the right questions to ensure that our standards across the setting are of the very highest quality.</p>
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<p>The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body</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 changes to funding continued to impact the sustainability of the Centre. 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.</p> <p>Regular visits ensured that health & 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 & Learning committee continued its ‘learning walks’ with a different focus each term and making sure that a meeting took place at each site. Undertaking on-site meetings at York Road, Hazel Avenue and The Spinney has enabled us to view the learning environment, meet staff and children, as well as seeing the provision available to aid children’s development in practice.</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. 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.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</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 continued focus on the Family Centre, as we look to successfully bid for the provision for the next three years.</p> <p>In the final 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 and look for future funding opportunities through the Trust.</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>

How you can contact the governing body

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 clerk@guildfordnscs.surrey.sch.uk or via GNSFC reception. You can see the full list of governors and more information about what we do, on our website.