

PEASLAKE FREE SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025-2026

Core Objectives

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies the core functions of the Peaslake Free School Governing Body are:

- Ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Head and school management team to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation to ensure its sustainability and making sure its money is well spent
- Ensuring the voices of stakeholders, especially parents and members of the local community are heard.

Membership

The members of the Governing Body (as at September 2025) are:

- Mark Foster (Chair and Free School Ltd Company Member) – Chair of Performance Management & Governance Committee
- David Newman (Deputy Chair and Responsible Officer)
- Sara Dangerfield (Head, Finance Officer and Ex-Officio Trustee) – Chair of Curriculum, SEND and Safeguarding Committee
- James Cobb (Trustee and Free School Ltd Company Member) – Chair of Finance, Audit & Estate Committee - Health & Safety
- Andrew Clayton (Trustee and Free School Ltd Company Member) – Chair of Parental, & Community Liaison, Nursery & Fundraising Committee - Legal Advisor
- Tom Southee (Trustee) – Safeguarding and Education
- Moira Jones (Trustee) – Finance & Audit
- Janette Weller (Trustee) - Finance & Administration
- Emily Riley (Staff Trustee) - Finance & Administration
- Sarah Small (Trustee) – Curriculum and SEND
- Jevon Birchall (Trustee) – Curriculum and SEND
- Rhys Thomas (Trustee) – IT, Finance & Administration
- Kelly McMorrow (Parent Trustee) – Parent Liaison and Fundraising
- Flora White (Trustee) – Curriculum and Education

The full Governing Body meetings are attended by our Acting Clerk (Janette Weller).

The profiles of the Trustees are available on the school website, as is the record of any conflicts of interest. Trustees are appointed for four year terms and can be re-appointed. The appointment status of each of the Trustees is on the website

Meetings

The full Governing Body meets at least once per term to perform its duties as outlined in the Governance Policy. It meets additionally each term for training sessions or as required.

There are specific Agendas for each of the termly meetings in line with the needs of the school year. These can also be found in the Governance Policy.

Committees

There are three main Committees which meet at least termly to cover different aspects of the school operations. These are:

- Curriculum, SEND and Safeguarding
- Finance, Audit and Estate
- Parental & Community Liaison, Nursery and Fundraising (1).

(1) Note that this Committee also provides input and support to the Charity Trust meeting for accountabilities relating to the Nursery, building and fundraising

A Performance Management & Governance Committee meets as required and at least once per year to review the performance of the Head and staff team and progress against the school's objectives.

There is also an adhoc Operating Committee which is called upon to support the Head and the management team as required with operation matters and considerations.

The Terms of Reference of these Committees are outlined in the Governance Policy.

Attendance Record of Trustees

We have an extremely supportive and dedicated Governing Body with an excellent attendance record. The Trustee Attendance record is published on our website.

Key Focus Areas This Year

The key areas of focus of the Governing Body this year are:

- To support the Head and staff in the implementation of the School Improvement Plan and responses to 2025 OFSTED inspection
- To engage with staff team on the embedding of the two-classroom model and curriculum, especially Continuous Provision
- To understand and leverage the approaches to assessment and evaluation of progress of individual children and cohorts
- To reinforce the marketing of the School and Nursery to attract prospective parents

- To ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the School and Trust.
- To engage with the community in support of the School and Nursery.