



Archibald First School

Governor Impact Statement 2025 – 2026

‘Governors, leaders and staff are proud of the school community they have nurtured. Governors’ support for the school enables the school to improve and develop continually. Staff are proud to be part of this school. They are well supported by knowledgeable leaders and governors’

Ofsted 2025

The impact of the governing body is linked to our strategic aims:

1) The Governing body will be fully engaged with the school.

We decided to change the frequency of full governing body (FGB) meetings this year to allow for increased engagement with school activities and discussion beyond mandatory governance items. As a consequence, the full governing body met on 6 occasions across the year (twice in each term) with sub committees meeting each term and more frequently for the finance committee. During the additional FGB meeting we have discussed, questioned and challenged around areas of teaching and learning and curriculum development to ensure we fully understand the aims and approaches of the leadership team at Archibald First School (AFS). Subject leads have provided presentations and we have been able to establish a good understanding of how topics and subjects are linked so as to develop in tandem. Alongside this our governors have been instrumental in setting up a volunteer weekend at the school to encourage parents and children to come in and help with the general maintenance and development of the outside spaces. In addition, attendance at beach trips, summer fairs, sports days and more ensure they continue to be embedded in the culture and ethos of AFS. Each week the Chair of Governors meets with the Headteacher in a supportive capacity, to ensure that he is fully engaged in the day to day running of AFS. He also performs the Head teacher’s annual performance review in coordination with the school’s achievement partner and sits on staffing interview panels when required. Due to the specific budget challenges the school has faced this year, the governing body has supported the Head when considering staffing and other financial challenges, and have worked closely with the leadership team and the local authority on the school’s budget. Governors at AFS have all undertaken governor safeguarding training and all new governors have been trained by Newcastle council to ensure that we are able to full support AFS.

2) The Governing body will be knowledgeable of academic curriculum and content.

Governors have worked closely with staff at the additional FGB meetings to see how the curriculum is mapped across the key stages, how assessment is implemented and how mastery and challenge is embedded and the continuing professional development that is in place for teaching and support staff to enable them to provide the best experience possible for the children. The governors have continued to carry out learning walks and monitoring visits throughout the year. During these visits, governors have met with subject leads, class teachers, and pupils and spent time on learning walks to gain a deep understanding of each area of the school. Following the visit, governors write up a reflection of their visit with supportive ideas and questions to think about which are fed back to the full governing body. Alongside this, governors have been engaged in learning how AFS extends and adapts each curriculum area by running a range of extra-curricular clubs and activities.

3) The Governing body will be aware of the challenges the school will face over the next 5 years.

The biggest challenge for AFS is the ongoing management of the school budget. The Head, the wider AFS leadership team and the governing body have worked hard with the local authority to develop a budget that will enable the school to continue to deliver a high quality education whilst also balancing the books. Despite the success that has been achieved, we recognise that this is a continuing and growing challenge as costs increase at a greater rate than income. The governing body strongly feels that the quality of education, experiences for the children and wellbeing of staff must not be negatively impacted by the tighter budget and will continue to work with the leadership team to this end. Furthermore, AFS has an outstanding approach to support for their vulnerable students and the governing body continues to support the leadership team to ensure that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Such provision comes at a cost however, and we shall continue to support the leadership team in their endeavours to ensure it is fully funded.

4) The Governing body will possess the appropriate mix of skill sets to successfully carry out its functions.

The standard duration of parent governor tenure means that there is a regular turnover in the team and this offers opportunities for us to recruit new governors with particular skillsets based on need. We have been particularly fortunate in this regard over recent years and following last years skills audit we now have a governing body with a wide range of educational, business, health and safety, financial and estates expertise. In addition, all governors take part in regular training through the local authority and Clennell Education Solutions, including mandatory 'Safeguarding Training' at the start of each school year. Curriculum and vulnerable group link roles are allocated to governors based on their expertise. These actions ensure that we continue to hold the school leadership team and the wider staff body to account by reviewing regularly whole school data and challenging where appropriate at full governing body committees.