

The Department of Education sets out the objectives of a Board of Governors as operating at a strategic level and to focus on three core functions: setting the vision and strategic direction of school; holding the Headteacher to account for educational performance; and ensuring financial resources are well spent. It is good practice for the board to review its own performance and publish an annual statement to explain how it has fulfilled its responsibilities. (*DfE, The School Governance Regulations 2013*)

1. MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY – September 2025 to July 2026

Name	Role	Attendance	
Anna Ellison	Head Teacher	6/6	Appointed HT January 2022
Sara Westlake	Staff Governor	5/6	Appointed DHT March 2022
Edward Langham	Co-opted Governor Chair of Governors	3/6	Appointed Chair March 2022
Beth Tidey	Co-opted Governor Deputy Chair of Governors	5/6	
Hannah Buckroyd-Clarke	Co-opted Governor	4/6	Chair Elect from Jan-2027
Philippa Keasey	Parent Governor	4/6	
Seema Hussain	Parent Governor	6/6	
Mike Pinches	Parent Governor	5/6	
Liz Hindmarsh	Parent Governor	5/6	
Helen Faulkner	Co-opted Governor	n/a	Appointed October 2026

2. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND COMMITTEES

The Governing Body's terms of reference follow Leeds Local Authority Governor Support model and are available on our website.

The Governing Body operates without sub-committees. This structure has been decided as the most appropriate for wetwood as it provides all Governors will full oversight and continuation of all matters. Governors formally meet 6 times during the academic year to July 2026. All meetings were quorate during the year. Governors will regularly visit school to monitor specific areas, they will talk to staff and pupils to support their monitoring work.

Governors are also allocated to the following Committees, which meet as required: Pay Review Committee; Pay Appeals Committee; Complaints Committee.

Three Governors perform the Headteacher Performance Review, which sets and assesses the Headteacher's annual objectives. Appraisals are held 2 times a year, covering target setting and review of the year and mid-term review. The School's School Improvement Officer also attends annual appraisal and provides wider context and challenge.

Governors are allocated specific monitoring duties to correspond with key areas of the school. In the year to July-26 Governors specific areas of monitoring included: Child Protection and Safeguarding; Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND); Early Reading and Phonics; Attendance; Governor Training; Maths; Writing; School Finances; Health and Safety; and the Curriculum. Governors have met with the relevant staff members to review these areas and report back to Governors in Committee meetings.

External support to the school is provided by our School Improvement Advisor. While they report and advise the school directly, their independent view is very useful for Governors. NOVAC (Note of Visit and Contact) reports have been completed for Early Years Foundation Stage and Ofsted development areas. School accesses a range of external

training and support to educate and develop staff. Reports and feedback are shared and reviewed by Governors with actions for development agreed.

Governors responsible for school finance meet 3 times a year to both set the budget and track performance against the budget, reporting back to Governors. Support and challenge is provided on expenditure and investment decisions. Governors also review the wetwood Out of School Club finances, budget and pricing.

All Governor activities and discussions are minuted in Committee Minutes.

3. CHAIR'S STATEMENT

School continues to be a very positive place for pupils. Our data shows good outcomes and attainment for pupils, although as a single form entry school, results vary by each cohort. Feedback from both pupil and parent surveys is very positive. That said, the school's leadership remains driven to improve standards and our provision for pupils.

The challenges of running a school are constant with ever increasing difficulty in balancing the budget, mainly due to wage increases not being matched by funding increases. This requires very careful management of our budget and impacts all our decisions.

For the first time in many years, Weetwood has some spare places which are spread across year groups. At September 2026, School has 7 pupil spaces. This is a function of international students leaving after a short period of attendance and families moving out of the area. School continues to be oversubscribed with applications for Reception, but it is harder to replace pupil spaces further up School. This has an impact on funding as it is based on the pupil census taken at the start of October. This will put further pressure on our budget for the remainder of this academic year.

We continue to see a general trend of increased SEND need across school and an increasing range of need. Pupils needs may not be fully understood or diagnosed. Consequently, there is a significant amount of work which School undertakes to support pupils to allow them to access education at Weetwood. The EHCP process is long and difficult and School is supporting an ever-increasing number of pupils through this assessment to access defined support, which is often a gateway to support beyond Weetwood. Governors provide a significant amount of support and oversight of this area due to its impact across school.

2025-26 has seen a degree of change in staffing. Three new teaching staff have been appointed, starting in September 2026. A key priority for school and Governors is their successful integration into school, which appears to be progressing well.

Autumn 2025 saw the appointment of a new School Business Manager and a Manager for our out of school club (WOOSC). These have been good appointments and have made an impact from the start. Unfortunately, after 12 months, the School Business Manager has decided to take a career break and has given notice. A recruitment process has already begun. We were fortunate to receive a number of strong applications for the role last time and anticipate that being the case again. It does however highlight the impact of staff turnover on operations of the school, not least on the resource required for the recruitment and integration processes.

All recruitment follows Safer Recruitment guidelines, with at Safer Recruitment trained staff and Governors on each recruitment panel. Staff receive good levels of personal development support, but we are pleased that external recruitment have given School the chance to develop the teacher and staff cohort, when those opportunities arise.

From Summer 2026, the school will enter the Ofsted inspection window. A significant amount has been undertaken since the last inspection to improve consistency of pupil outcomes and to target those who need a greater level of support. Subject curriculums are much more rigorous in their depth and intent. Governors have supported these

progressions both this year and in previous years. An updated Self-Evaluation Form has been produced which provides a detailed assessment of school.

Governors completed a Skills Audit during the year to assess our development needs, knowledge gaps and areas to strengthen through the recruitment of new Governors.

From 2027 we will have a new Chair, with Hannah agreeing to take over from Ed, who will remain a governor to support Hannah and the wider body. We are pleased that a new Governor will join us from the start of the 26/27 academic year and their experience will complement the existing Governors.

The Governing body has a wide range and depth of skills and experience, which is being supported by active and planned succession of roles and responsibilities. Governors have completed external training on a number of subjects during the year: Safeguarding; Safer Recruitment; Pupil Premium; Ofsted's new process and framework.

The wellbeing of school staff is a key priority for us and something we question at each meeting. Staff surveys have been positive and we encourage dialogue with the school leadership team, school staff and Governors.

It is pleasing to see the sense of community within the school. Parent and pupil surveys have also been extremely positive about the school. There is a rich diary of activities within school and parents/carers have opportunities to visit the school during 'Share our Learning' events. The PTA provides a number of great events over the year and provides funds to support extra activities in school, which is very much appreciated.

There is much to celebrate about in school life at Weetwood and we have introduced time in each Governors meeting to focus on celebrating the various activities and experiences the children participate in.

Edward Langham
Chair of Governors – October 2026