

## **Governing Body Annual Statement**

### **September 2025**

#### **Review of the 2024 - 5 Academic year**

As we reflect on another remarkable year at Forty Hill School, we are filled with pride and gratitude for all that has been achieved. From enriching learning experiences to joyful community events, this year has been a testament to the dedication, creativity, and care shown by our staff, parents, and volunteers. Every contribution—big or small—has helped create a nurturing and inspiring environment for our children to thrive.

One of the standout milestones this year has been the successful extension of our Nursery provision to full-time hours, which came into effect in April 2025. This development marks a significant step forward in supporting our youngest learners and their families, and we are especially grateful to Ms Izard and Ms Bissett for their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment in making this vision a reality.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in making this year so special. Your support continues to shape the future of our school in the most meaningful ways.

As a Governing Body, we have remained actively engaged in the life and progress of Forty Hill School throughout the year. Our involvement has included regular Governing Body meetings, Finance Committee sessions, subject-specific reviews, judging the annual Art Trophy, attending parent consultation events, and participating in end-of-year performances and church services. These touchpoints have provided valuable insight into the school's operations and the experiences of our pupils and families.

In addition, the Chair of Governors meets fortnightly with the Headteacher to ensure ongoing strategic alignment, while the Vice Chair continues to observe safeguarding meetings, reinforcing our commitment to pupil welfare and safety.

We would like to formally acknowledge and thank Ms Izard, the Leadership Team and all members of staff for their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and care. Their hard work underpins the school's continued success and positive culture.

This annual statement forms part of our ongoing process of evaluation, transparency, and celebration of the school's achievements.

#### **The Governing Body 2024 - 5**

The Governing Body comprises of 11 governors: 5 Foundation Governors and 6 Representative Governors. All governors give their time voluntarily and offer a wide range of skills and experience. Below is a list of the current Governing Body.

##### Foundation Governors

One of the Foundation Governors is a nominee of the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS), one is a nominee of the Enfield Deanery Synod, three are from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Jesus Church, one is nominated from the Local Authority (LA)

Mrs Ruth Moore (Chair) - Enfield Deanery

Ms Sue Hammet (Vice Chair) - LDBS

Ms Laila Barbe - LDBS

Mrs Zoey Dickson - PCC

Ms Fiona Crack - PCC

### Representative Governors

The Representative Governors include 1 Local Authority (LA) 2 elected parent governors and 1 elected staff governor. The Headteacher and Vicar of Jesus Church is also part of the Governing Body, ex officio.

Ms Jonquil Izard - Ex officio - HT

Rev' Chris Bolster – Ex officio- Vicar

Mr Richard Eckles – Elected parent

Mr Micheal Spitaliotis – Elected parent

Mr Matt McDonnell – Elected parent

Mrs Susie Munt – Elected staff

Mr Tom Addey - LA

### Clerk to the Governors

Mrs Anna Keelan BSc (Hons) DipSBM

### **The Governing Body**

The Governors of the school provide strategic leadership and accountability and make an important contribution to the school's wellbeing and effectiveness.

We are responsible for setting and monitoring the budget for the school, and overseeing the financial management of the school. The full governing body is also responsible for the maintenance and health and safety aspects of the school buildings, and decisions on the use of the premises outside school hours.

We are responsible for ensuring that our pupils progress appropriately in their education and appreciate that for this to happen the pupils must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff all working together within a safe, supportive but yet relaxing environment.

Governors appreciate too, the requirements of our children's parents and carers and their need to be satisfied about the overall leadership and management of the school and how it affects safety, learning and enjoyment of their children.

To achieve their objectives governors, too must continually evaluate the role they have played within the life of the school, and publish relevant information to all interested parties. This statement and report are part of that evaluation and publication process.

As the Governing Body, we have four core functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.
2. Holding the headteacher and Senior Management Team to account for the educational performance of the school, its pupils, and the performance management of the staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring that the budget is spent effectively.
4. Realising a shared Christian vision for the school

The current Governing Body has extensive knowledge from different walks of life, both educational and non-educational. This ensures a wide scope of challenge and accountability for the leadership, and management of the school.

The Governing Body take a keen interest in the curriculum provided by the teaching staff, bettering their understanding by participating in subject reviews, talking to staff and pupils and gathering information from books and learning taking place in the classroom.

The Governing Body has five (5) meetings per annum as a Full Governing Body, where we hear a comprehensive report from Ms Izard about the school, as well as committees to review pay and performance of staff, the Vision, Values and Christian Distinctiveness of the School, Admissions, School Finance and Premises.

## **Staffing**

The Governing Body firmly believes that the quality of teaching staff is central to driving high standards across the school. Throughout the academic year, the Headteacher and her senior leadership team—often joined by representatives from the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS)—have carried out a series of lesson observations and learning walks. These have consistently shown that the standard of teaching and learning at Forty Hill School is good or better, a judgement that is strongly supported by the 2024/25 subject data.

This year, we also bid farewell to several valued members of staff who have made significant contributions to the life of the school and the development of our children. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Kubilay, Miss Champion, Mrs Fernandes, Miss Hills, and Mrs Courtney for their dedication and service, and we wish them every success in their future endeavours.

We are fortunate to have a committed and hardworking team throughout the school, and we are grateful to Ms Izard for her leadership in ensuring that all staffing vacancies have been filled with outstanding new recruits. Thanks to her efforts, we begin the 2025/26 academic year with a full complement of staff.

We are delighted to warmly welcome our new colleagues: Mr Lyster, Miss Piccone, Mrs Ates, Miss Garcia, and Mr Theodosi. We look forward to the fresh energy and expertise they will bring to our school community.

## **Volunteering**

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to the incredible parent volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to running the Friends of Forty Hall Parents Committee. Through their hard work and creativity, they've organised a wide range of events and activities that have brought joy to our children and raised valuable funds for the school—helping us to fund various resources for the school including; 30 iPads with covers & licenses, iPad charging trolley, 400 new reading challenge books, book storage baskets, EYFS reading corner beanbags/ cushions, climbing frame, outdoor play equipment, new basketball board & hoop, outdoor reading hut, 16 new football kits, new carpets for 2 classrooms and the restoration of the Arc's structure.

A special thank you goes to Neche Yilmaz, Kailey Plahar, Katy Laurence, Desta Labode and Kat Nicolaou whose commitment and enthusiasm have made a lasting impact. We're truly grateful for everything you've done.

## **Curriculum**

### **School Development Plan (SDP)**

While the staff and senior leadership team lead the development and monitoring of the School Development Plan (SDP), the Governing Body plays an active and meaningful role in shaping its direction. Governors contribute by writing sections related to their own areas of focus and by engaging in regular visits that support the ongoing evaluation of the SDP's progress.

The Governing Body remains fully aligned with the school's vision and values, and we are deeply committed to working in partnership with the leadership team to foster a rich, inclusive, and inspiring learning environment for every child. Core subjects such as Mathematics, Reading, and Writing continue to be areas of strength, complemented by the school's outstanding Religious Education (RE) provision.

We are delighted to welcome Reverend Chris Bolster as both the new Vicar of the Congregation of Jesus Church and as an Ex-Officio member of our Governing Body. His presence brings valuable spiritual insight and strengthens our connection with the wider community.

We have also been consistently impressed by the breadth and depth of the wider curriculum at Forty Hill. It is clear that the curriculum not only supports academic achievement but also nurtures pupils' emotional wellbeing and personal growth. The school's use of its natural surroundings—through initiatives such as the thriving school garden and weekly Forest School sessions—adds a unique and enriching dimension to the children's learning experience.

During our visits—whether for subject reviews, judging the Arts Trophy, or attending school events—it is always a joy to witness the confidence with which pupils speak about their learning, their school, and the values that guide them. Their enthusiasm and pride are a testament to the nurturing and aspirational culture that defines Forty Hill

### **Data analysis**

Data is made available to governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by opportunities to ask questions of the Head teacher. By doing this the governors are able to benchmark their data against similar schools, the Local Authority and schools nationally to ensure the schools standards and expectations are high and are able to be closely scrutinised. Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium

### **Governing Body focus for the 2025-6 academic year**

The Governing Body remains committed to working in close partnership with Ms Izard and her leadership team to support the ongoing implementation of the School Development Plan. Governors will continue to contribute through subject reviews and, where appropriate, participate in school activities—providing valuable opportunities to observe the school's ethos and practices in action.

Regrettably, we have witnessed an increase in instances of disrespectful behaviour from a very small number of parents/care givers when raising concerns with staff. This trend, which has escalated in both the sector and at our school in recent years, is deeply concerning. While the school continues to uphold an open-door policy and actively encourages constructive dialogue between parents, caregivers, and staff, we must be clear: aggressive or confrontational approaches are neither acceptable nor tolerated.

The Governing Body will prioritise supporting Ms Izard and her team in managing such challenges effectively, ensuring that all interactions within our school community are rooted in mutual respect, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the wellbeing of our children. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the vast majority of parents for their ongoing support and the kindness shown to our staff and community.

### **Policies**

Governors review all relevant policies on a programmed basis to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date.

### **Governor Training**

During this academic year governors have received training in a range of subjects including safeguarding, child protection and SEND. The Chair and Vice Chair attend the yearly LA Governor conference.

The Governing Body can be contacted through the school office, via email [office@fortyhill.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:office@fortyhill.enfield.sch.uk)